STAR OF MYSORE

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OUR EVENING DAILY
48th
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

MYSURU Sunday 16th February 2025
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Dear Mysoreans,

Some things aren't just habits; they become a part of who we are. Every evening, like so many others, we reach for our copy. It's not just about the news but about feeling connected to Mysore, to its people, and to its soul.

For 47 years, Star of Mysore has been by our side. It has been our storyteller, our voice, and our companion. It has celebrated our triumphs, shared our concerns, and woven itself into the fabric of our lives. Through its pages, businesses have flourished, friendships have formed, and generations have grown up, finding a piece of Mysore in every word.

Even in a world of smartphones and instant news, Star of Mysore remains special and relevant, because it is ours.

Few cities in the world still cherish an evening newspaper, and we are fortunate to be one of them. Here's to 47 years of news, nostalgia, and togetherness. May this tradition continue for many more years.

A grateful reader,

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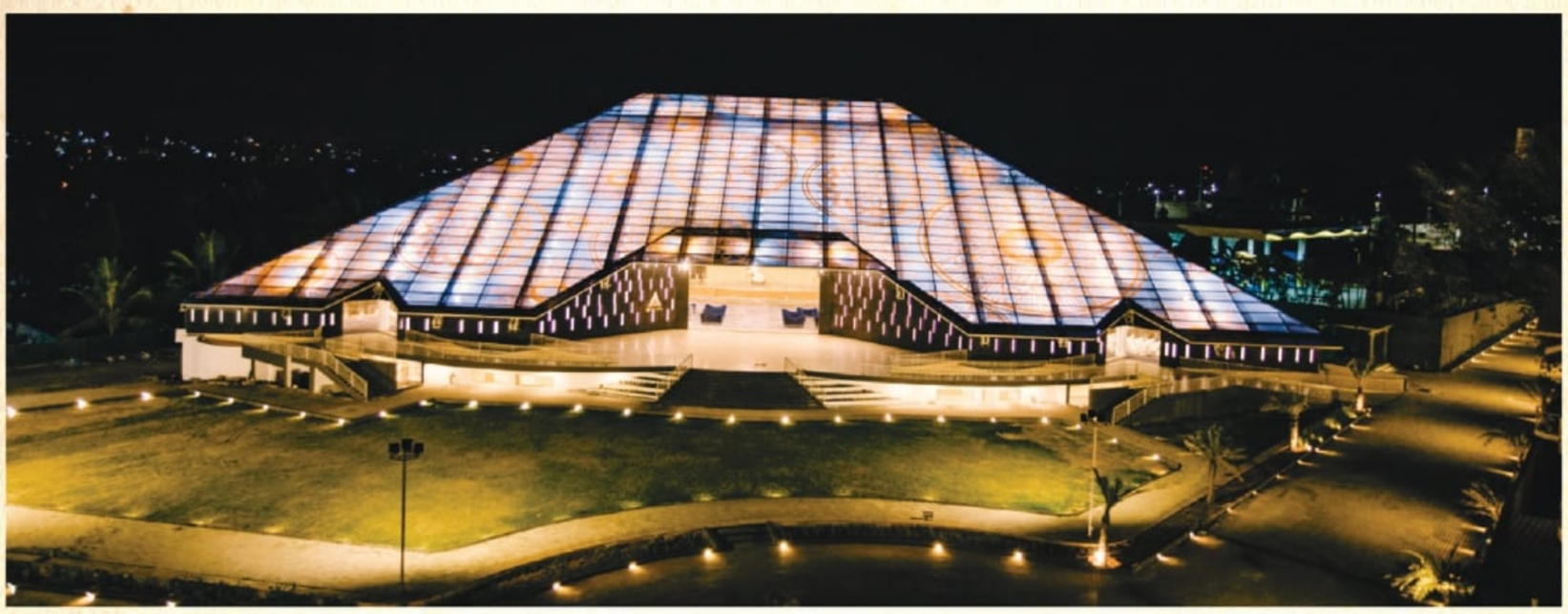

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Sunday 16th February 2025

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 47 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 48th year of publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are specially beholden to our readers and advertisers for their unstinting support in making this possible.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

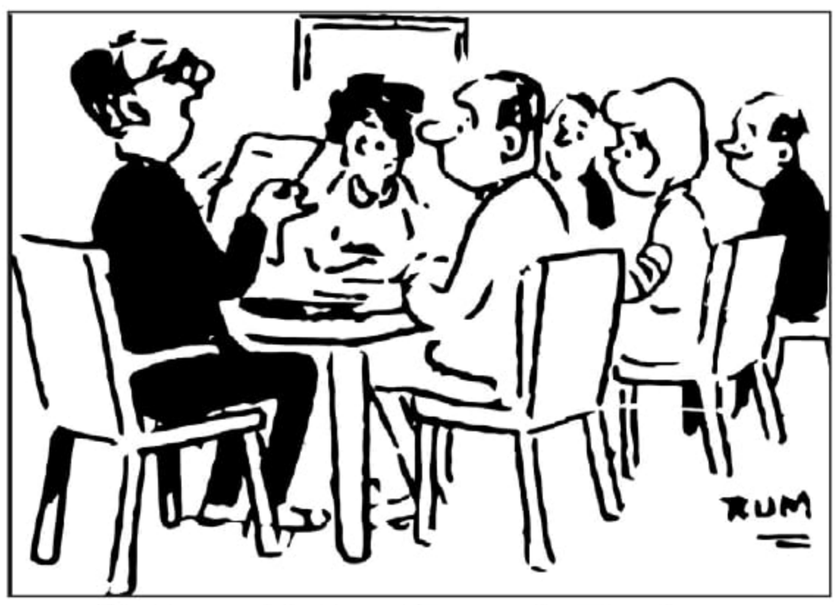
As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from content to pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru* and more. We have specialist contributors who provide expert views on current issues and interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

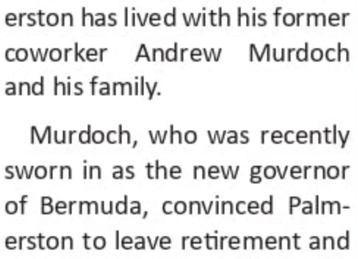
EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE



"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

UK's Foreign Office cat shows up for duty



London: Retirement isn't for everyone — just ask Palmerston the cat, who formerly served as chief mouser for the UK's Foreign Commonwealth Office in London.

After a few years enjoying a life of leisure, the diplo-cat — named after the country's longest-serving foreign secretary — is back on the job, this time in Bermuda. The former rescue joined the diplomatic service in 2016 and gained a large following online.

Since retiring in 2020, Palmerston has lived with his former coworker Andrew Murdoch and his family.

Murdoch, who was recently sworn in as the new governor of Bermuda, convinced Palmerston to leave retirement and join his administration as a feline relations consultant.

Palmerston isn't the only British cat in a public-facing government role. Larry the Cat is the Chief Mouser at the residence of Britain's Prime Minister.

The 18-year-old tabby — a fellow rescue — has served in his role through six prime ministers, for a total of nearly 14 years. Tensions between the bureaucracy cats have at times boiled over publicly — the felines have a history of catfights, but were ultimately united by a shared sense of duty.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Prioritize Sleep:

Getting enough rest is vital for the immune system to repair and recover.

By Dr. Veeresh J - Manipal Hospital, Mysore

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Best wishes to STAR OF MYSORE on the occasion of 48th year publication

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* or any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category. This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not.

Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need. We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Raj: *My uncle just came back from America after staying there for 12 years. The moment he stepped on Indian soil, he fell right down and kissed the ground.*

Amar: *Was he moved by the fact that he had come back to his motherland?*

Raj: *No, he stepped on a banana peel !?*

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Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Let us live and die with dignity

Life is full of questions and the curious one will want answers. But, there are questions that can't be answered. **Like, why we die?** When will we die? And, How will we die? Any answer to these questions is incomplete and it becomes questionable. A paradox of sorts.

If at all there is one supreme desire in man, that is about avoiding death. A wonderful desire but beyond realisation. There are no *chiranjivis,* immortals, among men. In *Mahabharata*, the Hindu epic, there is an episode known as Yaksha's questions or 'Yudhishtira and the Yaksha' where Yaksha asks Yudhishtira (Dharmaraya) many questions (125 approx) and the answers Yudhishtira gives are enlightening and revealing. Two questions touch upon the distressed among men and death.

Yaksha asked: What do Kshatriyas have that ignoble men have?

Yudhishtira replied: Abandoning the distressed makes them resemble the ignoble.

Yaksha asked: What is wonderful?

Yudhishtira replied: Everyday men die, yet everyone thinks he will live for ever. What is more wonderful than this?

Two lessons to learn here. Do not abandon the distressed. Do not think you will live for ever.

Therefore, Death is certain, there is no doubt. But its manner, place and time are absolutely uncertain. Hence, Lord Buddha wanted us to order our lives accordingly. Some deaths, following incurable and painful diseases for a prolonged period, are traumatic. **Our Supreme Court (SC) in its landmark judgement in January 2023 (two years have passed since) had simply restated Buddha's thoughts on Death.** The SC's ruling permitted the 'Right to Die With Dignity' for terminally ill patients. Those suffering excruciating pain, with no hope of recovery or in a persistent vegetative state who no longer benefit nor get cured from **life-sustaining treatment must be enabled to die with dignity.**

Our Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao has rationally explained the purport of the Supreme Court's judgement in the following words. He said the implementation of the SC's decision would be beneficial to both the doctors and the family of the patients. [Though not to the hospital!] **This would take away the guilt feeling of the patient's family members, which would haunt them, when the Life-Sustaining Treatment (LST) is either withheld or withdrawn as per law.** Now, because of the SC directive there will be a dignified closure to such patients' treatment enabling them to die in dignity.

The SC recognised that the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution also encompasses the Right to Die With Dignity.

Happily, Karnataka Government has decided to implement the SC's directive in this regard though late by over two years. To some governments wisdom dawns rather late. Let it be. However, the good news is that while the State Government has decided to implement the LST directive of the SC, it has also decided to introduce an **Advance Medical Directive (AMD) known as a Living Will** which enables patients to record their wishes about their future medical treatment to end the misery, expense and die peacefully.

I had written about **Living Will** in this column on April 2, 2018, when the SC allowed **Passive Euthanasia** in case of terminal illness. Let me reproduce the article titled ***"Living Will: Die with Dignity."***

Man must not only live with dignity but also die with dignity. That may not be the law of nature, nor the intention of God. God is supposed to be kind and compassionate both to his believers and non-believers alike but what do we see?

That was one of the reasons we had Mother Teresa in Kolkata, kind and compassionate, who assured a death with dignity to the destitute, sick and dying. As for helping man to live in dignity, that help should either come from the rulers or from the conscious effort of the individual himself. Man has a choice here. He may not care for a dignified life. That is his choice. But, NOT so with death. Here he has no choice, except if he commits suicide.

Imagine, young or old, confined to bed for years in a vegetative state under the care of the dear and the loving ones. It is a miserable life both to the sick and to the dear one looking after that person. **To use the expression of Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher of Existentialism, in such a situation both the sick and the dear one become both an oppressor and an oppressed.**

Let me explain. The sick is an oppressor of his dear one attending on him 24x7. Caring for the sick months or years together is no ordinary task. As for the dear one, his or her prolonged years of care for the terminally sick is an act of oppression of the sick. Oppression is in the very act of caring!

It is possible the dear one may only feign love for this sick person while secretly praying for his or her early end!

However, we cannot hold the sick guilty because illness comes to an individual unannounced, stealthily, imperceptibly.

Thus, in real-life situation, we are pushed into the world of paradox facing a 'to be or not to be' question. A moral dilemma. The criminal law (IPC, CrPC etc.) does not help either the sick or the attendants. After all, serving the sick is service to God. The flip side of this ideal of service is that not serving the sick is a sin. This is the Christian religious injunction and the British rulers respected that belief, so much so they incorporated it in the law. **This was the catch for all those who are living in sick-bed with artificial life support.** In some countries of Europe, however, in this age of reason, **euthanasia** was allowed legally — causing gentle and easy death in case of incurable and painful disease.

I am so happy, India's legal system is gradually moving towards the **age of reason** from the age of moribund customs and superstitious beliefs. The Supreme Court of India has finally put its stamp on the long-pending demand by the wise amongst Indians for permitting **passive euthanasia.** I was happy to read the headlines in the newspapers of this piece of news — *Supreme Court approves passive euthanasia, upholds right to die with dignity.*

The Supreme Court, in its wisdom, has also told us how to go about exercising this choice of **euthanasia.** It has permitted the sick, while fully aware of the nature of development of their sickness in the future, to create what it calls a **Living Will** that will allow an individual to decide against **artificial support.** The historic and most humane decision came on Friday, March 9, 2018 from the Supreme Court.

The significant interpretation of the Article 21 of the Indian Constitution made all the difference, when the Supreme Court said, "The right to life and liberty, enshrined under Article 21 also includes the right to die peacefully and with dignity."

The judgement has special significance because it was delivered by a five-Judge Constitutional Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra.

This **Living Will,** also known as **Advance Medical Directive,** upholds a person's right to choose **passive euthanasia** in the eventuality of a terminal illness with no hope of recovery, an irreversible or permanent vegetative state. **Removal of the life-support system does the job.** The Court has, however, in its wisdom not allowed what is known as **active euthanasia** which means killing a person (patient) through the use of lethal injection.

Ironically, the opposition to euthanasia came from the government.

Reason: The patients may not be aware of medical advancements that could cure them. A frivolous argument. If there is such a cure available, doctors would certainly not proceed with euthanasia. How can they?

There were many gems of reasoning in the judgement. Is refusing to take treatment (or food) and allowing disease to take its natural course not suicide? And punishable under IPC? Doctors put forward their own argument. Euthanasia is against their Hippocratic Oath. Well, the Court said: **"When the sanctity of life is destroyed should we not allow them to cross the door and meet death with dignity?"**

A Living Will determines about your medical care during your lifetime when you are able to speak or write for yourself. This Living Will is used only in situation where you are incapacitated, mentally incompetent or unable to communicate. The **Living Will** might designate an agent to make decisions, dictate what kind of life-support treatment the patient needs, discuss pain-management, personal grooming and bathing instructions, the religious and spiritual concerns of the patient and may even mention the funeral or memorial plans!

Therefore, all things considered, I guess it is wise to execute a Living Will. Ask your doctor or your lawyer.

My friend Raghavan, a city pharmacist says, "A Living Will absolves the succeeding generation of GUILT as it is they who will be under tremendous financial drain and emotional strain too." Being a pharmacist he should know.

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Trains flagged off from Ashokapuram

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (PM&BCT)- Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna inaugurated a new booking office at the second entrance of the upgraded Ashokapuram Railway Station in city last evening, enhancing ticketing facilities and overall accessibility for passengers.

Somanna also symbolically flagged off two MEMU pairs of trains to Bengaluru, which will operate from today. These trains were previously running from Mysuru City Railway Station.

Six more trains will be operated from Ashokapuram to different destinations including MGR Chennai Central-Mysuru Cauvery Express, Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru City Malgudi Express, Kacheguda-Mysuru Express, MGR Chennai Central-Mysuru Express in the coming days.

[See TRAINS on Page - 68]

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna flagged off two pairs of MEMU trains from Ashokapuram Railway Station in city last evening. He is seen inside the train with MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, MLC K. Vivekananda, MLC C.N. Manjegowda and MLA T.S. Srivatsa displaying the tickets. SWR Mysuru DRM Shilpi Agarwal is also seen.

Anniversary Special Issue

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NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our contributors and readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. —Ed

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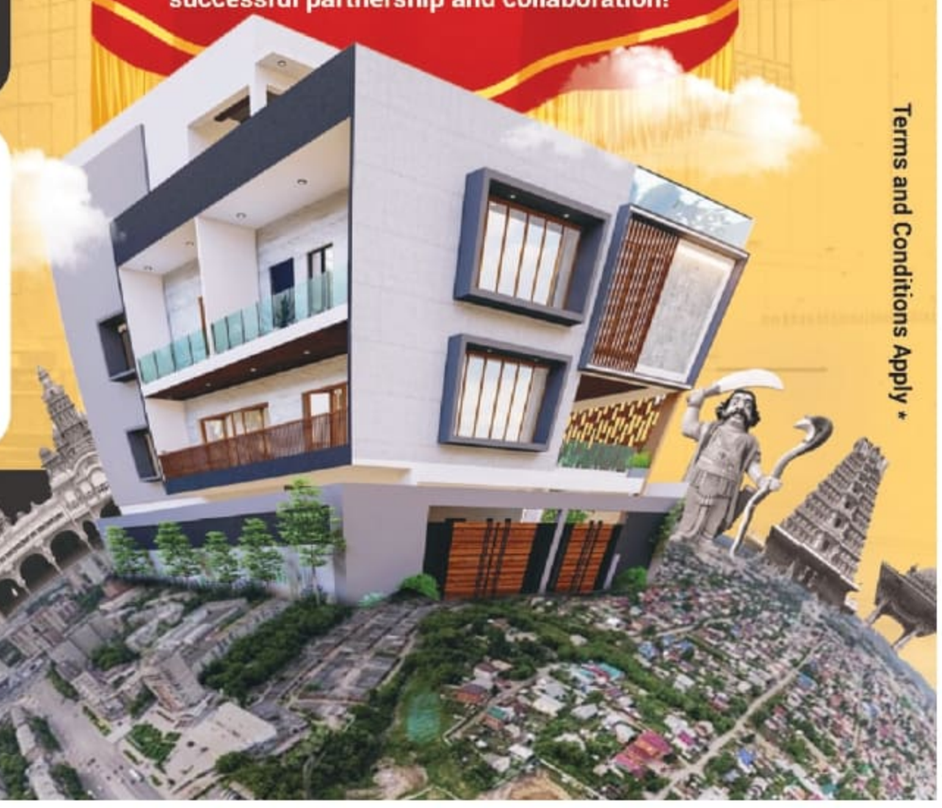

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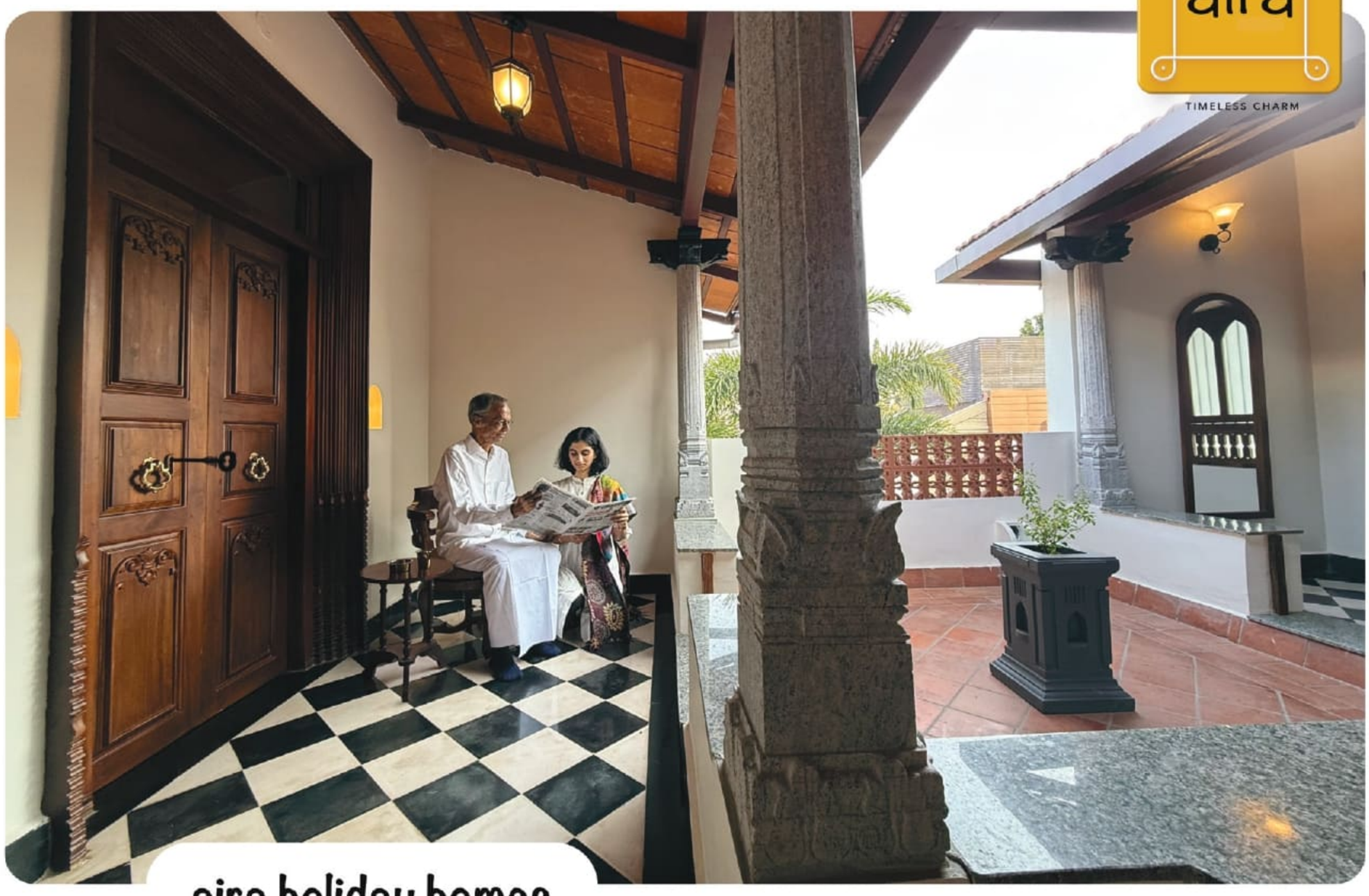

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VOICE OF THE READER

Aggrieved site owner remembers former MUDA Accounts Officer

Sir,

I read KBG's write-up titled ***'A Retired Officer and his Shanti Puja at age 80 — Good governance is possible only with such officers'*** in *Star of Mysore* dated Jan. 27 following the demise of A.K. Shiva Roy of State Accounts Department and former Accounts Officer of MUDA on Jan. 24.

It was a great tribute by KBG to Shiva Roy, remembering him for his honest services while working in MUDA.

I am sure my job which is pending for long in MUDA would have been done if Shiva Roy were to be in service. I am sharing my bitter experience with the MUDA Accounts Section and may be there are many more facing this issue.

As notified by the Assistant Director, Town Planner Member (TPM), I transferred Rs. 20,350 to MUDA to get approval for my single site layout. It was transferred over a month ago, yet, the Accounts Section has not confirmed receipt of payment to TPM. Due to this, my request for approval is kept pending.

I got confirmation of credit given to MUDA from Bank of Baroda with details of transactions. I sent this to the TPM. But, they want to hear from the Accounts Section on receipt of the fee. I wrote to Mysuru Deputy Commissioner, MUDA Commissioner and also to Chief Accounts Officer but no one seems to bother. This is the sorry state of affairs in MUDA, no matter ED or Lokayukta probes into the alleged scams. I once again thank *Star of Mysore* and KBG for highlighting the honest and sincere services by Shiva Roy while at MUDA.

—T.S. Chandramouli

Mysuru 12.2.2025

NOTE: *The Government employees, from the lowest to the highest, are a protected lot under our law, no matter what their wrong-doing, harassment of people who go to them for work and above all corruption in multiple forms.*

This law, which protects them, even when complaints are made and case is filed, the law which enables Law Courts to give them anticipatory or early bail and any number of adjournments dragging the case for years, must change.

As a result, we find acquittal of majority of cases and a very small conviction with minimum period of sentence.—**Ed**

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- I Can parent of Gr 2 & 4 learners
Mr. Manjunath

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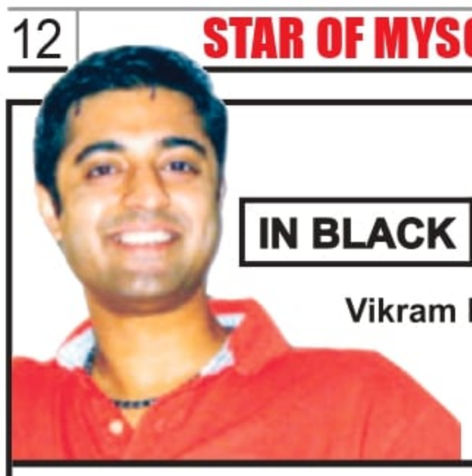

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Outrage is the real bad joke here

I was yanked out of my virus-induced misery by the deafening shrieks of TV news anchors who, between gasps for breath, hurled words like *'despicable,' 'degenerates'* and *'uncultured.'*

The apparent culprit? A YouTuber/ influencer named Ranveer Allahbadia, who asked a question that sent India's moral Police into cardiac arrest.

And what was this heinous question? Brace yourself...

This baby-faced 31-year-old, appearing on a show run by a 27-year-old — a show infamous for its crass humour and intellectual bankruptcy — posed the question: *"Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life, or would you join in once to stop it forever?"*

Yes, it's crude. Yes, it's juvenile. Yes, it's disgusting and disturbing. But on this show, where the humour barely rises above middle school toilet jokes, are we really expecting high levels of public discourse? I was not surprised at all.

But what truly baffled me though was the magnitude of the outrage.

News anchors combusted live on air, moral outrage shot through the roof and soon, politicians and even the Indian Parliament was rocked by the 'perv'-Ranveer 'scandal.'

FIRs were filed, committees were formed and suddenly, this became a national issue! All this because a 31-year-old asked a dumb and disturbing, even if it was hypothetical question, on a dumb show run by a 27-year-old?

Meanwhile, in the land of selective outrage, four days after the Ranveer saga, a Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that *'Unnatural sex with wife without her consent is not an offence.'*

But no shrieking TV anchors there, no emergency Parliamentary sessions. No outrage from feminist and human rights groups and 'intellectuals.'

Apparently, juvenile humour is a far bigger threat to Indian culture than crimes against women.

It gets better. Politicians — yes, the same breed of people who were caught watching porn inside

Legislative Assemblies — now want to prosecute these two man-child internet jesters in the name of public decency. Irony just died a slow, painful death.

This isn't new. Our media, much like our politicians, have a spectacular talent for opportunistic outrage.

We all must remember that free speech ends when violence begins. Any sane person would rather be offended than be subjected to physical violence.

That said, today, we are outraged that two youngsters are a threat to our decency. But where was this outrage when Prime Ministers and Law Ministers made statements that were abusive and could have triggered violence?

Remember when Oxford-educated Salman Khurshid, the Union Law Minister during UPA rule, at his supporters meeting threatened Arvind Kejriwal in 2012 when the latter was going to protest in the Constituency of Khurshid's wife?

"Let him come to Farrukhabad… but let him also return from Farrukhabad," he said, with all the subtlety of a Bollywood villain.

If that wasn't enough, he even added, *"I was made the Law Minister and was asked to wield a pen… Now it is time to replace it with blood."*

Murderous threats from a sitting Union Law Minister? Meh! Didn't outrage anyone but a crass joke on YouTube? NATIONAL CRISIS!

Another example, remember how Mamata Banerjee once used a colourful Bengali phrase *"Pichhone ki kore bamboo deya jaaye."*

It means *"trying to stick a bamboo up the ass of those who are trying to do something positive."* She even added an enthusiastic hand gesture to go with it.

No calls for her to apologise and no calls for FIR and no high-decibel TV meltdowns about public probity.

What a misguided sense of outrage from the media, the Government and the 'learned' public.

There is more danger to the people of India from the numerous YouTube channels and influencers, peddling dangerous medical concoctions, fake news and financial schemes but have we ever heard targeted outrage and reportage about those? No.

So, let's be real. This Ranveer issue isn't about protecting Indian culture, public decency or the youth. It's about selective outrage.

Speaking of culture — what culture are we even talking about? The same one where cursing in the name of someone's mother or sister is a national pastime? Let's not pretend we are paragons of purity.

In North India, studies show that an average adult male casually drops a *'Maa-Behen'* slur over 60 times a day, often in front of children.

In some parts of Karnataka, calling someone's mother a sex worker is supposedly a term of endearment!

The culture of misogynist cursing is so bad that even the Prime Minister addressed this problem in his 2022 Independence Day speech.

PM Modi himself said, *"We have been casually using expletives and cuss words which are abusive and against our women. Can we not pledge to get rid of every behaviour and culture that humiliates and demeans women?"*

It is very clear that our children learn to cuss in the most misogynistic manner from their elders.

Yet, somehow, Ranveer and his band of potty-mouthed pranksters are the real villains?

If crude humour offends you, the solution is simple — don't watch it.

As for concerns about children, it is the responsibility of adults to teach them discernment.

If you fear that teenagers cannot distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate humour or between what is real and hypothetical, then your worries will likely extend far beyond comedy. After all, teenagers will soon have to make far more significant and complex decisions in life.

Today, people will make the crassest statements to boost their likes, just as news anchors will scream about irrelevant issues to boost their TRPs.

But if we're going to scream about threats to our culture, maybe we should start with real ones — like politicians normalising violence-triggering statements — rather than targeting two youngsters making dumb jokes online.

For now, the biggest joke here is the outrage itself.

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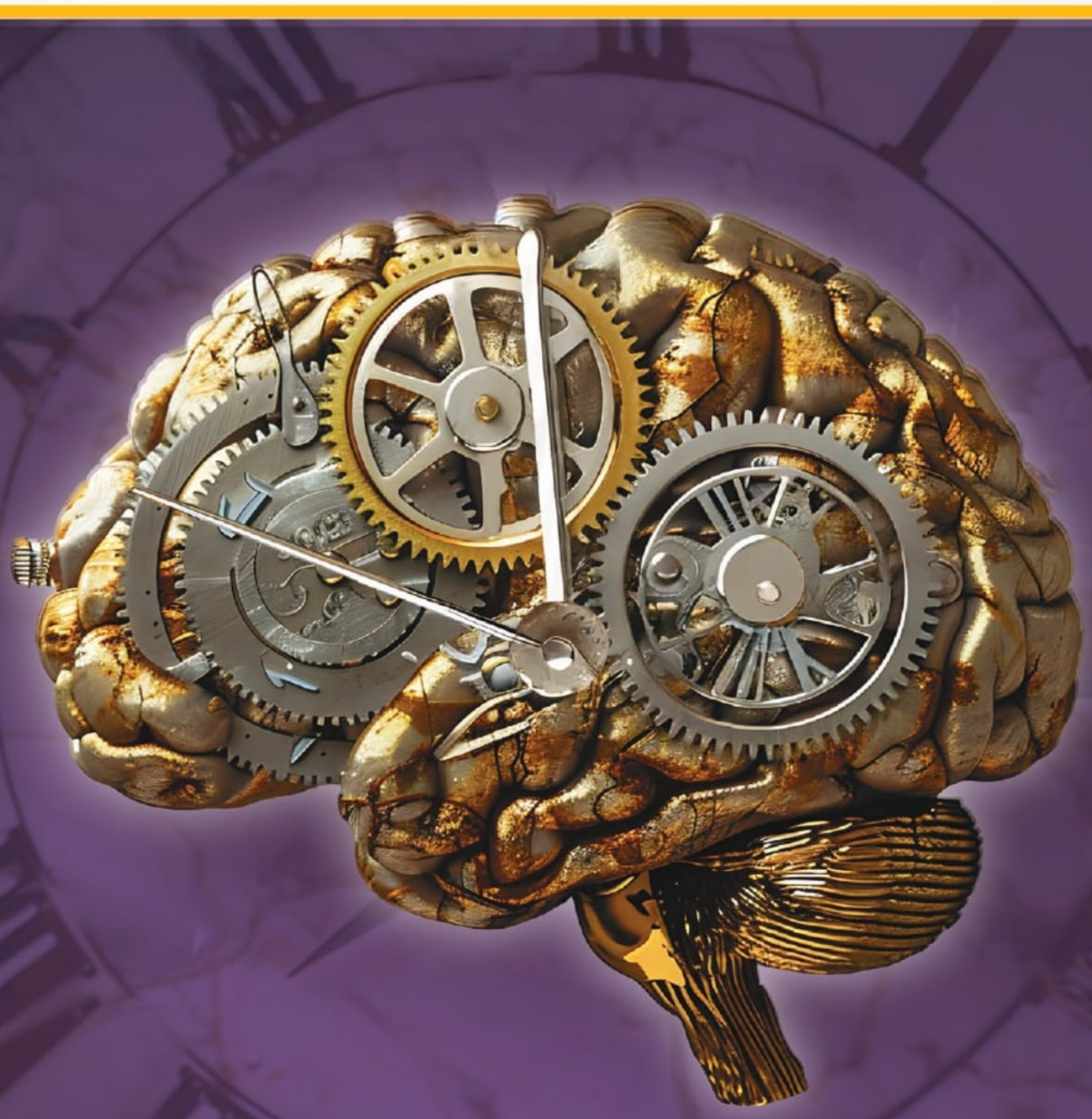

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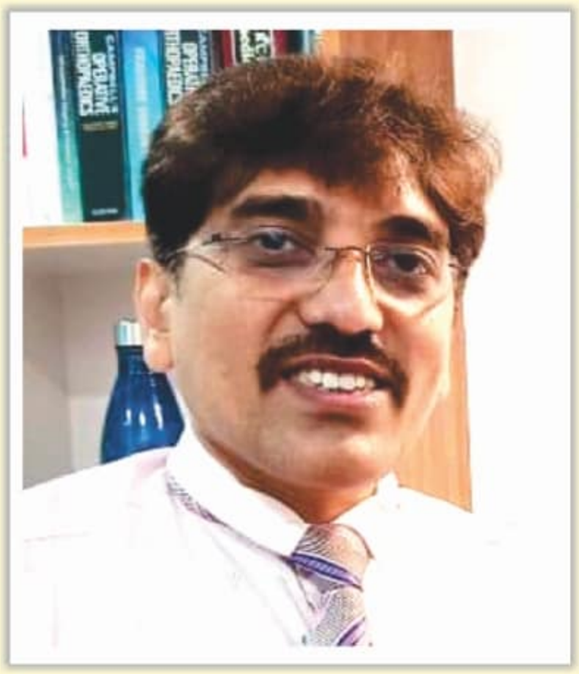

Dr. GIRISH CHANDRA R

MBBS, MS (TR & ORTHO), MRCS (London)
D. Ortho, Msc, Sports & Exercise Medicine-UK
Orthopaedic, Arthroscopic & Shoulder Surgeon
Robotic Hip & Knee Joint Replacement Surgeon
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

1. What is robotic hip and knee Robotic replacement?

Robotic-assisted hip and knee replacement surgeries utilize advanced robotic technology to enhance the precision and effectiveness of joint replacement procedures. These surgeries involve replacing damaged or arthritic joints with artificial implants, aiming to alleviate pain and restore function.

2. How Robotic-Assisted Joint Replacement Works ?

a. **Pre-Surgical Planning:** Before the procedure, a detailed 3D model of the patient's joint is created using imaging techniques like CT scans. This model allows the surgeon to plan the surgery with high precision, customizing the approach to the patient's unique anatomy.

b. **Surgical Procedure:** During surgery, the robotic system provides real time feedback, guiding the surgeon to remove damaged bone and cartilage accurately. The robotic arm assists in positioning the implant with enhanced precision, which can lead to better alignment and function of the new joint.

3. Benefits of Robotic-Assisted Joint Replacement?

Increased Precision: The robotic system allows for more accurate bone removal and implant placement, potentially improving the longevity and function of the artificial joint.

Personalized Approach: The pre-surgical planning enables a customized surgical plan tailored to the patient's specific anatomy, which can lead to better outcomes.

Reduced Recovery Time: Some patients experience shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery periods due to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure.

Enhanced Stability and Mobility: Precise alignment of the implant can result in improved joint stability and a more natural range of motion post-surgery.

It's important to note that while robotic assisted surgeries offer these advantages, the success of the procedure also depends on the surgeon's expertise and the patient's overall health. Patients should consult with their orthopedic surgeon to determine if they are suitable candidates for robotic-assisted joint replacement.

4. What is difference between robotic and conventional surgery?

Robotic-assisted surgery and conventional (traditional) surgery are two distinct approaches to performing medical procedures, each with its own set of advantages and considerations.

Conventional Surgery:

Technique: Involves direct manual manipulation by the surgeon using standard instruments.

Incisions: Typically requires larger incisions to provide adequate access to the surgical site.

Recovery: Generally associated with longer recovery times due to increased tissue trauma.

Precision: Relies on the surgeon's skill and experience; may have limitations in achieving optimal precision.

Robotic-Assisted Surgery:

Technique: Utilizes robotic systems controlled by the surgeon, offering enhanced precision and control.

Incisions: Often allows for smaller incisions, reducing tissue disruption.

Recovery: Associated with shorter recovery periods and less postoperative pain.

Precision: Provides greater accuracy, potentially leading to better alignment and positioning of implants in procedures like joint replacements.

Key Differences:

Minimally Invasive Approach: Robotic surgery often employs minimally invasive techniques, resulting in smaller incisions and reduced trauma to surrounding tissues.

Enhanced Visualization: Robotic systems offer high-definition, 3D visualization of the surgical area, improving the surgeon's ability to perform complex procedures.

Precision and Accuracy: The robotic system assists the surgeon in planning and executing the procedure with incredible accuracy, leading to better alignment and positioning of implants.

Recovery Time: Patients undergoing robotic-assisted surgeries often experience shorter hospital stays & quicker recovery periods due to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure. While robotic-assisted surgeries offer these advantages, the success of the procedure also depends on the surgeon's expertise and the patient's overall health. Patients should consult with their healthcare provider to determine the most appropriate surgical approach for their specific condition.

5. How Robotic Surgery Works?

a. **Pre-operative planning:** The surgeon creates a personalized 3D plan of the patient's joint, which guides the robotic system during the surgery.

b. **Robotic system:** The robotic system, is used to assist the surgeon in performing the surgery.

c. **Surgical procedure:** The surgeon makes an incision to expose the joint and inserts the robotic arm, which is equipped with a saw to take bone cuts according to the preoperative plans and intra operative decisions

d. **Real-time feedback:** The robotic system provides real-time feedback to the surgeon, allowing for precise placement of the implant and accurate bone cuts.

e. **Implant placement:** In Hip replacement, surgeon uses the robotic system to place the implant which is customized to fit the patient.

6. Benefits of Robotic Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery?

a. **Improved accuracy:** Robotic surgery allows for more accurate placement of the implant, which can lead to better outcomes and longer implant life span.

b. **Reduced recovery time:** Robotic surgery is typically less invasive than traditional surgery, which can result in less tissue damage and faster recovery times.

c. **Less pain:** Robotic surgery can result in less post-operative pain, as the smaller incision and precise implant placement can reduce tissue trauma.

d. **Customized implant placement:** Robotic surgery allows for customized implant placement, which can result in a better fit and improved joint function.

e. **Reduced risk of complications:** Robotic surgery can reduce the risk of complications, such as infection, blood clots, and implant failure.

7. Who is a Candidate for Robotic Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery?

a. **Patients with severe joint damage:** Patients with severe joint damage or degeneration, such as osteoarthritis, may be candidates for robotic hip and knee replacement surgery.

b. **Patients who have tried conservative treatments:** Patients who have tried conservative treatments, such as physical therapy and pain management, without success may be candidates for robotic hip and knee replacement surgery.

c. Conventional joint replacement, also known as traditional joint replacement, is a surgical procedure where a damaged or arthritic joint is replaced with an artificial joint, called a prosthesis, using traditional surgical techniques.

8. Advantages of Robotic Joint Replacement?

- **Improved Accuracy:** Robotic joint replacement allows for more accurate placement of the implant, reducing the risk of human error.
- **Less Invasive:** Robotic surgery is typically less invasive than conventional surgery, resulting in smaller incisions and less soft tissue releases.
- **Reduced Recovery Time:** Robotic joint replacement often results in faster recovery times, as the smaller incision and precise implant placement reduce tissue trauma.
- **Less Pain:** Robotic surgery can result in less post-operative pain, as the smaller incision and precise implant placement reduce tissue trauma.
- **Customized Implant Placement:** Robotic joint replacement allows for customized implant placement, resulting in a better fit and improved joint function.
- **Reduced Risk of Complications:** Robotic surgery can reduce the risk of complications, such as infection, blood clots, and implant failure.
- **Improved Joint Function:** Robotic joint replacement can result in improved joint function, as the precise implant placement and customized fit allow for more natural movement.
- **Reduced Blood Loss:** Robotic surgery can result in reduced blood loss, as the smaller incision and precise implant placement reduce tissue trauma.
- **Faster Return to Normal Activities:** Robotic joint replacement can result in a faster return to normal activities, as the smaller incision and precise implant placement reduce recovery time.
- **More Precise Bone Cuts:** Robotic joint replacement allows for more precise bone cuts, reducing the risk of human error and improving the fit of the implant.
- **Real-Time Feedback:** Robotic surgery provides real-time feedback to the surgeon, allowing for adjustments to be made during the procedure.

Overall, robotic joint replacement offers several advantages over conventional joint replacement, including improved accuracy, less invasive surgery, and faster recovery times.

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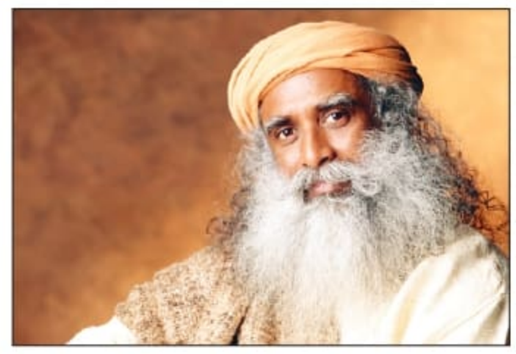

By Sadhguru - Founder, Isha Foundation

Mysuru - A Different Kind of Bond

At one time I knew every street in Mysuru like the back of my hand — every tree, building, everything. I prided myself in knowing Mysuru like very few people.

When I was a young boy, I had "friends" in the Mysuru Zoo. Sunday morning, I had my two rupees with me and would go deep inside the fish market, where they kept the half rotten fish. For two rupees, I sometimes got two or three kilograms of fish. I put them in a plastic bag and took them to the zoo and spent the whole day there feeding all my friends with my fish!

Later, once I passed my pre-university courses, I declared to my parents that I was not going to college. My father was a prominent doctor, so he wanted me to study medicine. I refused, saying that I would not go to college that year and would educate myself.

I spent most of that year in the University of Mysore library. I would be there every morning, before the library doors opened, and I was the last one to get out when it closed at eight in the evening. From geography, history, literature, popular mechanics to philosophy, I simply read just about anything that came my way. I think most of the reading that I have done in my life, I did in that one year.

Though many things have changed in Mysuru in the last 45 years, I can still see so many places where I walked and how deeply I looked at them, and the billion questions that I asked at a billion different places in Mysuru. It forms a bond which is not emotional or sentimental, but of a very different kind which brought me to a certain level of quest within myself. For me, Mysuru means a billion questions and at the same time, an incredible answer too.

A file photo of Sadhguru meditating on the rock atop Chamundi Hill.

I loved the Chamundi Hills in Mysuru. This is a place where I have trekked extensively, camped, meditated and done many things. At a time in my life when I was fully engrossed in a variety of business activity, something fantastic happened to me. It was the 23rd of September 1982.

On that afternoon, I had a little time to spare between two business meetings, so I rode up Chamundi Hills. I parked my vehicle, went to a particular rock — a huge rock which was my usual place — and sat there with my eyes open. After a few minutes, I did not know where I was. What was "me" was just everywhere. The very rock I was sitting on, the air that I was breathing, the atmosphere around me — everything had just become me.

Whatever I say about it, it will sound stupid and insane. I thought I was in that condition for about 10-15 minutes, but when I came back to my so-called normal condition, it was 7.30 pm — four and a half hours had passed. My eyes were open, I was fully conscious, but time just flipped. Every cell in my body was bursting with a new indescribable level of ecstasy.

I had hit upon a nameless goldmine within myself which I did not want to lose even for a moment, and I knew it could happen in every human being. Every human being has the same inner ingredient but it was not happening to them. So I thought the best thing to do was to somehow rub off this experience on them. I started looking for ways to do that.

The first program I ever taught started off as a four-day, two-hour program. Since then, there has been no looking back. Millions of people have gone through our programs and millions of lives have changed because of it. Today, I can proudly say that in homes and marketplaces alike, we have created people whose vision and experience of life is rooted in the harmony and unboundedness of life rather than in any narrow perception of the limited.

[Ranked amongst the fifty most influential people in India, Sadhguru is a Yogi, mystic, visionary and a New York Times bestselling author. Sadhguru has been conferred the Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India in 2017, the highest annual civilian award, accorded for exceptional and distinguished service. He is also the founder of the world's largest people's movement, Conscious Planet – Save Soil, which has touched over 4 billion people.]

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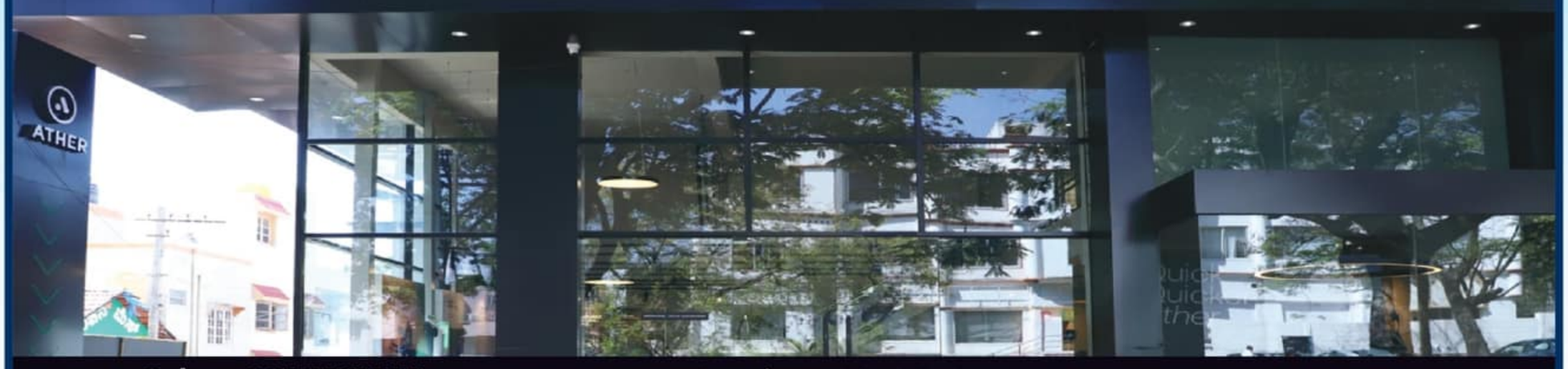

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A Chronology of VENGEANCE

A member of the Mysore Royal Family chronicles the long history of property disputes between the Karnataka Government and the Mysore Royal Family

By R. Raja Chandra
[Member of erstwhile Mysore Royal Family]

As usual, as per post-dinner pastime, I was skimming through the online version of *Star of Mysore* to catch up with local stories.

Two recent news reports on the ongoing shenanigans about Bangalore Palace caught my attention.

One report said Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and senior BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of targeting the erstwhile Royal Family of Mysore due to Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar's affiliation with the BJP. He questioned whether the CM would have taken similar action if Yaduveer was a Congress MP.

The second report said members of the Urs Community feel, "The members of the Royal Family are being subjected to unethical actions and harassment, forcing them to spend their lives in the Law Courts. If this continues, people from across the State will come together to launch a movement." Memories came flooding as my mind jagged back to the happenings of the nightmare of the decade of 1980s and 1990s when this political vendetta unfolded.

As a youngster, still in his early 30s Prince Srikantadatta Narasimharaja (SDNR) Wadiyar had jumped into the cesspool of politics after the tragic death of PM Indira Gandhi in 1984. A bolt from the blue call from Arun Nehru catapulted SDNR Wadiyar as an MP from Mysore during elections held in Dec. 1984.

He immediately paid the political price. A piqued Janata Government headed by Ramakrishna Hegde foisted land acquisition proceedings against both Bangalore and Mysore Palaces in 1986. Court room battles became order of the day. Not to be left behind, there were multiple proceedings under Estate Duty and Wealth Tax and Urban Land Ceiling Act to manage.

Private litigations to wrest control over Bangalore Palace was adding to the nightmare one lived. Despite all this, SDNR Wadiyar was able to win a second term as an MP in 1989 as Indian politics entered the quixotic coalition era and as Prime Minister Chandrashekhar resigned in June 1991 and elections had to be held once again.

Whether you call it intuition or faith in astrology, SDNR Wadiyar strangely had an inkling of the disaster. He personally told former PM Rajiv Gandhi about the danger to his life if an election is called. He begged him to avoid south during campaign.

[Continued on Page - 59]

A TIMELINE OF DISPUTES

Jayachamaraja Wadiyar

Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar

1950 On Jan. 23, Union Government recognises Mysore Palace as the private property of the last Maharaja, **Sri HH Jayachamaraja Wadiyar.** The distinction between private properties and State properties were clearly maintained from 1881. The Maharaja gave many properties to the State. These are clearly described in the Government Order dated 6-2-1951.

1971 The 26th Amendment to the Constitution abolishes the privileges and privy purses of erstwhile rulers. However, the Government clarifies that the amendment does not affect ownership rights over private properties.

1974 HH Jayachamaraja Wadiyar passes away. Within 4 days, State takes over all the Temples of the Royal Family including those inside Mysore Palace, on Ramanuja Road, Chamundi Hill and Brindavan in Kolkata.

1975 State forms Trust to look after Mysore Palace where 7 members of Royal Family were trustees along with 4 State officials. State fails to get Central clearance for the transfer of property to the Trust in view of tax dues like Estate Duty and Wealth Tax.
During Emergency, State manages to coerce **Srikantadatta Narasimharaja (SDNR) Wadiyar,** son of HH Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, to hand over possession of the Mysore Palace and winds up the Trust.

1976 The Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act is passed, restricting urban properties, including those of the Royal Family.

1988 SDNR Wadiyar moves the High Court to reclaim the portion of Mysore Palace.

1996 The Karnataka Government passes special legislation — Bangalore Palace Acquisition Act, 1996 — to acquire Bangalore Palace.

1997 The High Court directs the State to return the Palace to the Royal Family. Karnataka files a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court, but it is dismissed, directing the Palace be handed over to the Wadiyars.

1998 Karnataka passes the Mysore Palace Acquisition Act.

2013 On Dec. 10, Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar passes away.

NOW **Pramoda Devi Wadiyar,** wife of the SDNR Wadiyar, along with daughters of late Maharaja or their legal representatives continue the decades long legal battle to reclaim their legitimate properties.

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K.B. Lingaraju

Steering Mysuru's industries to new heights

Born into a farming family at Kumbarakoppal, Mysuru, K.B. Lingaraju aspired to build his own business. Overcoming challenges, he has emerged as a prominent entrepreneur and a respected figure. As President of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), he has been driving the growth of micro, small, and medium-scale industries with dedication. Actively engaged in social service, he sees industrial expansion as key to tackling unemployment.

In a candid conversation, he shared insights on pressing issues. Excerpts…

Can you tell us about MCCI?

K.B. Lingaraju: It represents micro, small, and medium industries, as well as commercial institutions in Mysuru district. We have around 1,600 entrepreneurs as members, along with 35 associations and organisations functioning as affiliates. As a member of the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), MCCI has been working in the best interests of its members for the past 60 years.

What are your demands before the Government for the growth of micro, small, and medium industries (MSMEs)? How has the Government responded?

K.B. Lingaraju: We have placed several demands to ensure the survival and growth of MSMEs along with commercial institutions. Previously, industries with a capital limit of Rs. 2 crore were classified as small industries. This limit has now been increased to Rs. 5 crore. Consequently, enterprises investing Rs. 2 crore are no longer eligible for many benefits, including subsidies.

What is your opinion on the Mysore Industrial Township Authority?

K.B. Lingaraju: A gazette notification to form Mysore Industrial Township Authority (MITA) was issued in 2003, but to this day, it has not been established. Industries continue to pay taxes to multiple local bodies, including KIADB and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), without receiving proportional benefits. The only viable solution to this issue is the immediate formation of MITA. The State must take urgent steps to establish it without further delay.

Are enterprises under MCCI adequately provided with basic facilities?

K.B. Lingaraju: Despite being among the highest taxpayers, industries under our jurisdiction do not receive adequate infrastructure support from KIADB or ULBs. For instance, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth Rs. 8 crore was prepared and submitted to the Government for the development of three roads in the Hebbal Industrial Area. However, due to technical issues, it was not approved. Even though the DPR was returned over a year ago, officials have shown no interest.

Additionally, we had requested an extension of city bus services from Infosys to the second phase of Hebbal Industrial Area, which is just a kilometre away. The request is pending. Recently, we brought this issue to the attention of Transport Minister R. Ramalinga Reddy, who responded positively. We hope for swift action.

Is there a need to simplify the procedure for providing bank loans to MSMEs?

K.B. Lingaraju: In the past, securing bank loans for MSMEs was merely a dream. While a system has now been put in place to provide financial support, it remains ineffective due to the reliance on CIBIL scores for loan approvals. Many industries struggled during COVID-19, making it difficult to maintain a good CIBIL score. As a result, we are urging the Government and financial institutions to sanction loans without considering the CIBIL score, allowing businesses to recover and grow.

What about establishing large industries in Mysuru?

K.B. Lingaraju: I recently participated in the Invest Karnataka conference, where demands were raised for around 100 acres of land to set up large industries. Allocating land for these industries would play a crucial role in addressing local unemployment, creating job opportunities, and providing rural youth with stable employment.

We have appealed to the Chief Minister to facilitate the establishment of large industries, emphasising that this will not negatively impact small industries. On the contrary, small industries will benefit by manufacturing and supplying essential components and equipment to these larger enterprises, fostering overall industrial growth.

K.B. Lingaraju (extreme left) seen being felicitated by actress Prema during a function organised by Suvarna Karnataka Workers' Forum.

Tell us about the contributions of Mysore Wadiyars to the industrial sector.

K.B. Lingaraju: Under their visionary administration, Mysore emerged as a hub for industries of international standards. Entrepreneurs such as Ideal Jawa Motorcycle Company founder F.K. Irani, MLA Jayadevaraja Urs, B.C. Lingaiah, and Koppal Basavaiah, along with other prominent businessmen, played a crucial role in shaping the industrial landscape. They also laid the foundation for the Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), which has now completed 60 years.

What are your future plans as MCCI President?

K.B. Lingaraju: MCCI owns one acre in Hebbal, and we have planned to establish a research and training centre. Our vision is to develop a facility modelled on the Government Tool Room and Training Center (GTTC) at Varuna, which would support aspiring entrepreneurs. Additionally, Government projects should be business-friendly. The intended benefits often get diluted due to excessive conditions imposed at the execution stage.

Temple renovation, Hebbal Lake conservation

The Lakshmikanthaswamy Temple in Hebbal, under the Muzrai Department, underwent significant renovation with contributions from the Infosys Foundation. Key figures in this initiative included K.B. Lingaraju, former MLC D. Madegowda, and Gundappa Gowda.

Contribution as an employer

K.B. Lingaraju was born in 1958 in Kumbarakoppal to Bhyrappa and Lakshmamma. Known for his deep-rooted commitment to social service since childhood, he ventured into entrepreneurship by establishing a brick manufacturing unit, with the support of former MLC D. Madegowda. His involvement in industrial struggles and advocacy for industrialists' rights soon positioned him as a leader.

Over time, he expanded his business, establishing factories for pipe production, barbed wire, and chain-link fencing manufacturing. Now, he has launched a concrete block and cement brick manufacturing unit for his son, Kiran Raj, who is managing successfully.

Awards & Recognitions

- **FKCCI and RDCCI State-Level District Chambers of Commerce and Industry Conference Award (2023)**
- **VK Achievers of Karnataka Award (2023)**
- **Adarsha Purusha Award (2024) – Karnataka State Vokkaligara Vikasa Vedike**
- **Arivu Seva Ratna Award (2024) – Arivu Samsthe**

  Chanakya Seva Ratna Award (2024) – KMPK Charitable Trust
- **Karnataka Suvarna Sambhrama Seva Award (2024) – Karnataka Sena Pade**
- **Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Award (2024) – Zilla Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru**
- **Hemmeya Karnataka Ratna Award (2024) – Suvarna Karnataka Workers' Forum**
- **Dhwani Kotta Dani Award (2024) – Ursu Jagruti Academy and Ursu Pathrike**

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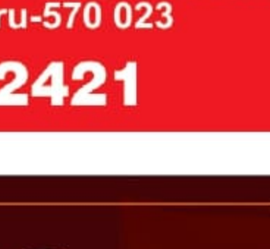

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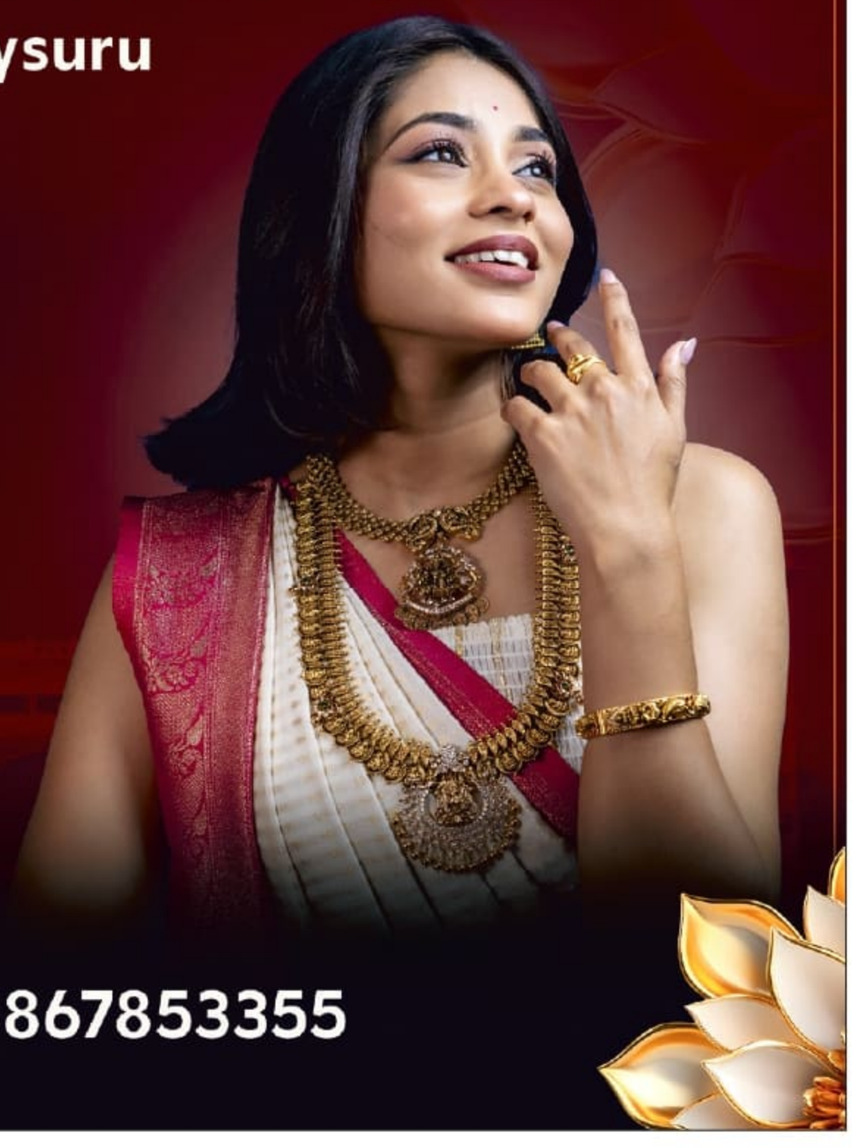

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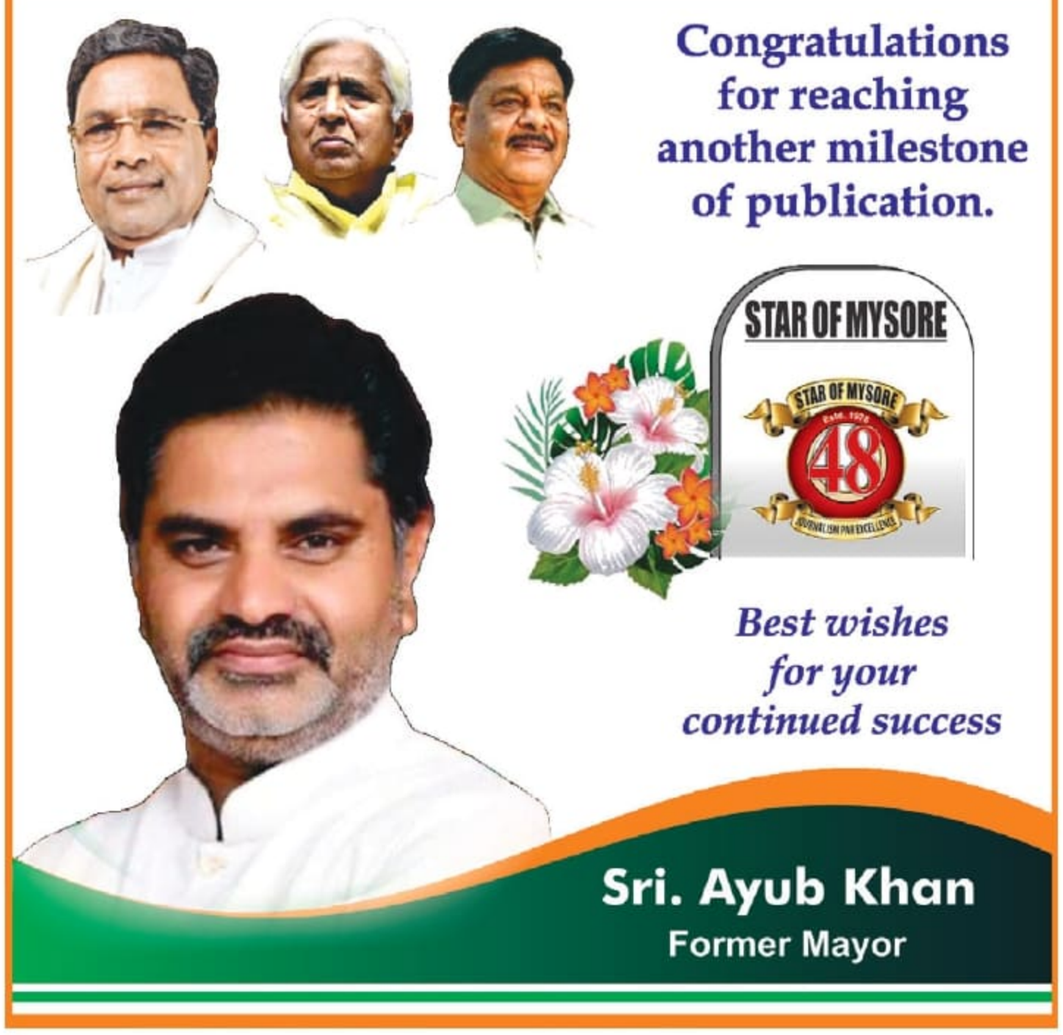

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Down The Memory Lane

By K. Vijaya Kumar
Former Jt. Director of Information & Publicity

Remembering a Kodava Scholar Couple Dr. Nanjamma & Dr. Chinnappa

Mysuru city has been known not only as a Royal City because of the Mysore Palace where the Rulers of Mysore Kingdom, the Wadiyar Dynasty, live but also known as 'Pensioners Paradise.' Naturally, it has attracted a large number of pensioners to lead peaceful life in the evening of their life. Among them was a Kodava couple Dr. Boverianda Chinnappa and his wife Dr. Nanjamma, who after many years in Canada, returned to their roots.

This couple lived as my neighbours at Tapovan Solace apartment, Sharadadevinagar, Mysuru, where many elderly couples live. It will be one year since Dr. Nanjamma passed away on Mar. 31, 2024. Her husband had predeceased her.

I remembered this wonderful scholar couple when I read about a book titled ***'Nanjamma Chinnappa: Chronicler of Coorg Culture'*** being published about her by journalist P.T. Bopanna. Immediately I procured the book and reading through I came to know about their life and achievements, specially in studying the history and culture of Kodava community known as a unique people. They have a distinctive culture in a land known

Front cover of the book.

for its forests, wildlife, hills and vales, more specially the holy River Cauvery which originates here and flows across Southern India like a lifeline to millions of farmers.

The book is well-written and full of information about Kodagu and its people. The author Bopanna tells the story of the couple in the most absorbing manner. Bopanna admits, it was this couple who guided him as an author.

The couple's monumental work about the family houses of Kodavas in Kodagu known as ***'Ainmanes of Kodagu: Ancestral Homes of Kodagu and Their Socio-cultural Significance'*** is dealt at length in the book. Probably, her last public appearance was as

Dr. Nanjamma and her husband Dr. Boverianda Chinnappa.

the chief guest at the Literary Festival hosted by Mysore Literary Association at the invitation of its President Prof. K.C. Belliappa.

She always draped herself in the ethnic Kodava style saree and used to participate in the music programmes conducted by the ladies of Tapovan apartment playing a musical instrument — harmonica.

She was given an Honorary Doctorate by the Mangalore University and was honoured as 'Coorg Person of the Year' in 2006 on the basis of a poll conducted by ***www.coorgtourisminfo.com***, Kodagu's news and tourism portal promoted by journalist and author P.T. Bopanna.

Indeed, their passing has created a void in the Kodava world and at Tapovan Solace.

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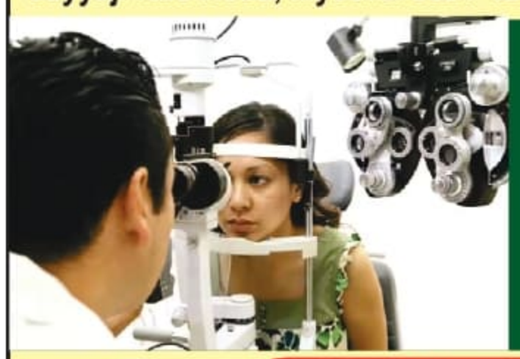

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Many Influences Of Mysore's Royal Goddess

The Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysore used to receive a Salam Aarti, which is believed to have been instituted by Tipu Sultan. Now it has been renamed as the Namaskara Aarti, as part of the growing wave of anti-Muslim sentiment across the country. It's tit-for-tat politics. In Pakistan, sari is seen as a Hindu outfit, so is frowned upon. In India, Urdu is seen as a Muslim language so needs to be changed.

This name shift serves as a reminder of another such change that took place in Karnataka nearly a thousand years ago, during a wave of anti-Jain movements when the Vaishnava and Lingayat communities opposed Jain practices. Many Jain temples were replaced by Hindu shrines. Historical records from five centuries, however, indicate that the Vijayanagar kings were clear in their stance to protect Jains and would not tolerate any violence against them by the worshippers of Vishnu and Shiva.

Before this conflict, in the 8th century AD, Karnataka's Rashtrakuta dynasty patronised Jainism, and Amoghavarsha was renowned among the Arabs as a great king. During this time, vast amounts of wealth entered the Deccan region — gold flowed in alongside horses, which were prized possessions across India and Southeast Asia. This wealth was used to build magnificent temples, including the Jain Basadis. Among the many deities patronised by the Jains were local goddesses known as Yakshinis, who served as guardians of the main Jain deity, the Mulnayak Tirthankara. One of these Yakshinis was Jwalamalini, meaning "the one who has flames around her neck." She was the guardian deity of Tirthankar Chandra Prabha. Interestingly, she was depicted holding multiple weapons and seated on a buffalo, making her strikingly similar to the Hindu goddess Chamunda, also known as Mahishasura Mardini, the slayer of the buffalo demon.

In fact, the city of Mysore derives its name from Mahishasura, although some claim it originates from Mhasoba, the buffalo god of the region, long before any formal religion of Jains or Brahmins existed. Jwalamalini's consort is also depicted as a buffalo and named as Shyama, the dark one.

According to many Jains, the Chamundeshwari Temple was once dedicated to this Jain goddess before it was taken over by Hindus. Although it is now a Shakta shrine linked to a Shakti Peetha, no blood sacrifices are offered to the goddess herself. Instead, blood sacrifices are made at the base of the temple to a local deity, a practice maintained by the local community. Some believe that the temple's Brahmin priests continue to follow old Jain traditions, while others argue that the local communities, who once sacrificed buffaloes to their deities, are now being sidelined.

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It is well known that across Deccan regions, temples are dedicated to the seven virgin goddesses and their brother or son, Potraj. These deities are still worshipped by marginalised communities and are associated with childbirth and illnesses. Their rituals often demand the sacrifice of a male buffalo calf. Buffalo sacrifices during harvest season were once common, with the blood offered to the earth for fertility. It is believed that the goddess derives pleasure from this offering. This sacrifice regenerates the earth. These subaltern practices, once widespread across India, were shunned first by the Jains, later by Brahmins, and are now gradually being erased altogether.

In Hindu memory, however, the temple at Mysore is the site where Durga killed the Asura, Mahisha, who took many forms, the last being that of a buffalo. Images of Buffalo-killing goddess first appear in Kushan art, 2000 years ago, in North India.

Then they appear around 300 AD in Gupta rock cut caves of Udayagiri, Madhya Pradesh. But in the 8th century, the goddess was seen on rock cut caves and temples of Chalukya and Pallava kings, along with the seven-sisters. It is quite possible that these popular images of Hindu goddesses influenced Jain temples of South India as the Yaksha-Yakshini concept emerged in later Jain traditions, especially favoured by Karnataka's Rashtrakuta kings. Or all of them were influenced by local tribes now forgotten.

No one can say for sure what came first and who influenced whom. The Chamundeshwari Temple exemplifies the complexities of a sacred site in India full of many influences — subaltern (Mhasoba, Potraj), Jain (Jwalamalini-Shyama), Hindu (Chamunda-Mahisha), and Islamic (Salam-arti). Some survive, some are suppressed, some resurface in a new form.

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Mysuru: A Look at its Past...

By Gouri Satya, Sr. Journalist

Mysore Peta

How it was cast off?

On Nov. 1, 1956, we celebrated Rajyotsava, which has become an annual event to mark the unification of the State.

The celebration marked the historic event when most of the Kannada-speaking regions came together to form a greater Mysore State on Nov. 1, 1956. This was followed by the re-christening of Mysore State as Karnataka 17 years later, another historic event.

The State had to wait for D. Devaraj Urs to become a Chief Minister to regain the name Karnataka. He exhibited remarkable Statesmanship by building a consensus in the Legislature. He proposed a resolution in the Assembly on July 27, 1973, and it received unanimous support in both the Assembly and the Council. Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Mysore State (Alteration of Name) Act on August 21, 1973 and it officially came into effect on Nov. 1, 1973.

The renaming celebrations were held at two significant locations, Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru and Hampi, capital of the historic Vijayanagar Empire.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya with Mysore turban which he never failed to wear.

At the celebration in Bengaluru, Chief Minister Devaraj Urs unveiled a granite tablet inscribing the new name and map of the State, proclaiming the historic occasion.

The age-old name Mysore went back into history as Kannadigas celebrated the occasion with jubilation across the State. As the reorganised State turned 69 and moved towards its 70th year, last Nov. 1, it is good to remember these events.

But, interestingly, with the State assuming the new name, Karnataka, the famous Mysore turban also slithered into the background. Perhaps, not many know of this interesting coincidence.

On the day when Mysore State became Karnataka, senior IAS Officer, K. Balasubramanyam, was the Revenue Commissioner of the State in Bengaluru. He remarked, 'When there is no Mysore now, why should I continue to wear the Mysore turban' and discarded his old gold lace turban of Mysore (Mysore Peta) in favour of a black cap of Northern Karnataka.

This led to the gradual vanishing of the elegant Mysore Peta, a common headgear till then. It was a common sight to see many officials and political leaders of the region wearing the traditional gold lace turban without fail. They were chastised or ridiculed if they attended duty without the beautiful Mysore turban, which commanded dignity and status.

Many of the political leaders and Congressmen switched over to the Gandhi cap. The Northern Karnataka turban (rumal) drew attention amidst Gandhi caps in the Vidhana Soudha. Minister of Urban Development Upnal with his outsized turban was jokingly called 'The Minister of Turban Development'! But, the rumal too was short-lived.

Palace Durbaries with the famous Mysore turban.

None of these — the laced Mysore turban, the Northern Karnataka's rumal or the Gandhi cap — are to be seen as headgear today. The Mysore turban is only to be seen in the portraits of Sir M. Visvesvaraya generally displayed in schools and offices or those of the Maharajas and during the Dasara celebrations.

The placing of a Mysore turban on the head while honouring achievers or guests at functions these days is perhaps a consolation that Mysore Peta still has some relevance. By discarding his Mysore Peta, Balasubramanyam had set a new trend.

Durbaries attending Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar's Durbar during Dasara — all of them wearing the laced turban which was a part of the must Durbar dress.

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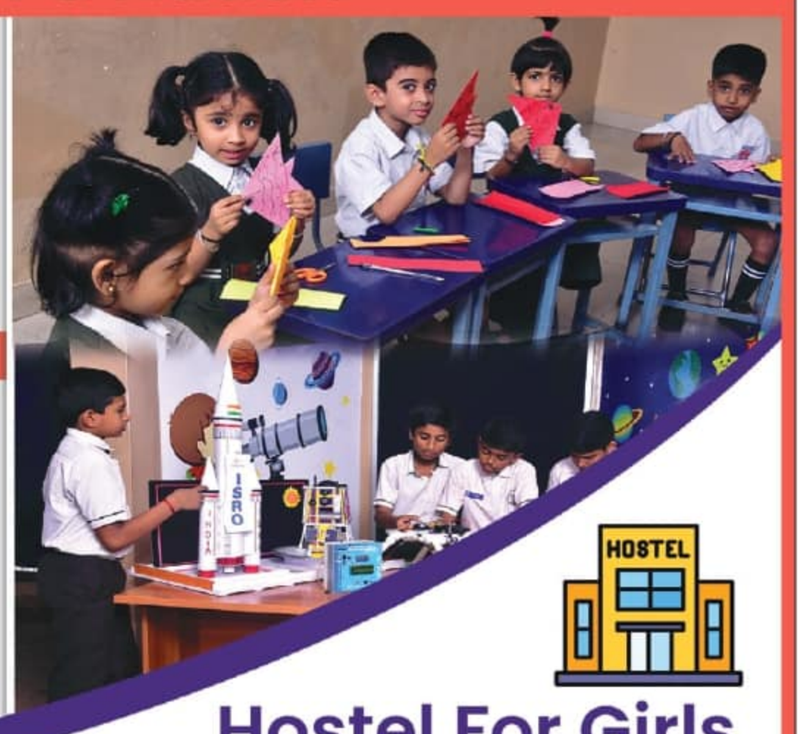

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From Crime Scene to Court

The crucial role of Police in safeguarding seized properties until Court verdict

By S.T. Ravikumar

With advancements in technology, the crime graph continues to rise. However, so does the capability of law enforcement in cracking cases, thanks to technological reforms integrated at various levels of Policing. In the past, before the advent of modern forensic science, technology and software applications, manual methods were the only tools available for maintaining law and order, **preventing crimes** and **solving cases.**

This often resulted in prolonged investigations, making it a daunting task to bring cases to a logical conclusion amidst numerous challenges. Tracing and arresting the absconding accused were particularly arduous, affecting the morale of the Police force in their pursuit of justice.

Narcotic Stock Room at Mysuru City Police Commissioner's Office.

One of the most challenging aspects for the Police, particularly the **Investigation Officer (IO),** is ensuring **safe-keeping** of valuables and articles seized or recovered from suspects until the Court grants permission for further proceedings.

These items often serve as crucial evidence during trial, making it the IO's primary duty to preserve them in **secure conditions.** Under the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)-2023, it is mandatory to verify the authenticity and assess the value of seized items with the assistance of an appraiser.

[Continued on Page - 34]

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Nirvana Yoga Shala based in Gokulam, offers accommodation, food and weekend day trips. **The founder Shashi Guruji has conducted workshops in many countries USA, Greece, Iran and Europe. We have been teaching Different Forms of yoga and mainly HATHA / ASHTANGA VINYASA.**

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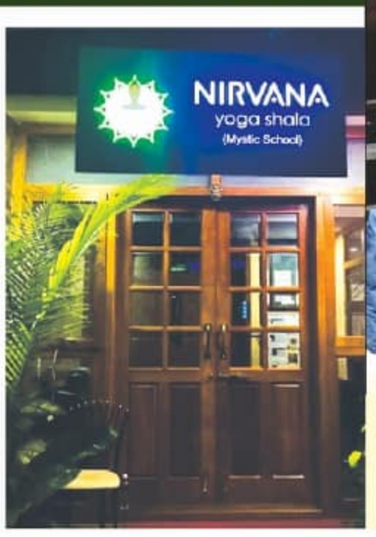
Karthik teaches Primary Series, Intermediate Series and Advanced Series of Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga. It is the spiritual method of practice first introduced by Krishnamachari and further developed by P. Jois and BNS Iyengar of Mysore. This method is physically demanding and the practitioner uses ujjayi breathing with asanas and vinyasa flow to connect individual postures.



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The combination of ujjayi breathing with vinyasa flow creates heat in the body which leads to purification through increased circulation and sweating. Additionally, Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga improves flexibility of the muscles, joints, ligaments and tendons. Through a consistent practice, the student can improve overall health and vitality and reduce the risk of injury.

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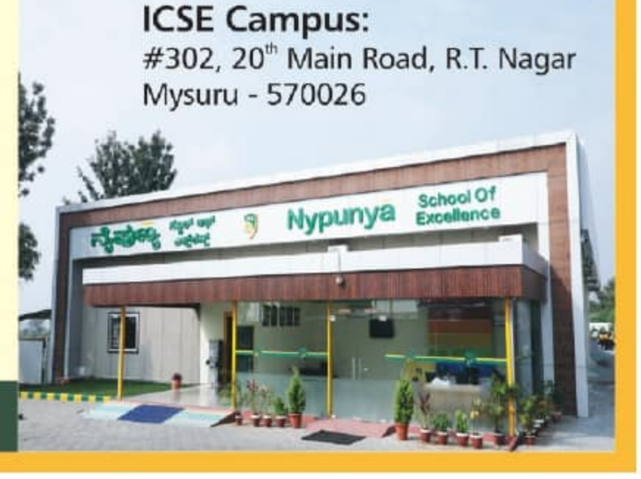

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From Crime Scene to Court

[Continued from Page - 30]

This applies to all cases involving House Burglaries and Thefts (HBT), chain snatching, dacoity, robbery, murder, financial fraud and accident-related incidents, particularly when gold and silver valuables are recovered.

Under BNSS-2023, various Sections outline the legal framework for handling seized items. **Section 177** deals with the seizure process, **Section 118** governs the handling of seized items, **Section 119** mandates serving notice to the rightful owner and providing related information, while **Section 120** lays down procedures for Police when seizing liquor, cattle, calves, construction materials, drugs and other substances.

If the quantity of seized items is small, they are sealed and stored in a locker within the Police Station. To ensure their safety, it is mandatory to prepare a **Property Form (PF)** and record the details in the ***Muddemal Register*** (Seized Property Register) until their lawful disposal.

For seized items of large quantity — such as valuable records, gold and silver — they must be stored in the **District Treasury** with prior permission from the **Deputy Commissioner** until the Judge grants **disposal approval.**

However, details of the seized articles must be duly recorded in the **case file, property form** and **seized property register.** Seized vehicles, on the other hand, should remain within the Police Station premises and can only be released to the owners through **Court permission.**

The Lokayukta Police, after seizing articles and documents, secure them in the strong room of the respective Police Stations. In cases of liquor seizures, Excise Department officials must send samples to the **Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL)** to verify authenticity while counterfeit liquor must be disposed of.

Seized **sandalwood, ivory** and other priceless items under the **Wildlife Act** must be stored exclusively in the **Sandalwood Treasury.**

Meanwhile, drugs and narcotics should be kept in Notified Places, such as the **Narcotic Stock Room** at the Mysuru City Police Commissioner's Office.

No **explosive materials** should be brought to Police Stations; instead, they must be disposed of with the assistance of the **Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS).** While defusing explosives, the area must be secured to prevent trespassing, as a precautionary measure.

Seized LPG cylinders and chemicals must be shifted to **authorised godowns** and the Investigation Officer must produce them before the Court while submitting the final report in the case.

For the seizure of weapons, **small-sized** weapons can be stored in the **Station Locker,** whereas **large-sized** weapons must be placed in the **Armoury Store** at the City Armed Reserve (CAR) Police Wing.

However, there is no requirement for the Police to retain seized items until the case is heard in Court. Once the Court grants permission, the articles can be handed over to their rightful owners after obtaining an **Indemnity Bond.**

Overall, the Police face a dual challenge — on one hand, they must investigate cases, file chargesheets with **circumstantial evidence** and ensure **conviction** of the guilty. On the other hand, they bear the utmost responsibility of safeguarding seized items, ensuring they remain intact and undamaged until due legal procedures are completed.

Handling with utmost care

Even though the Home Department provides adequate facilities for storing seized articles, it is the responsibility of the Police to handle them with utmost care. Just as the Police arrest the accused, keep them in safe custody, interrogate them, conduct spot mahazar and produce them before the Judge, they must also ensure that seized articles — such as gold, silver and valuable documents — are kept under tight security until they are returned to their rightful owners with Court permission.

— Seema Latkar,
City Police Commissioner

Chain of Custody

The Police must strictly maintain the chain of custody, secure crime scenes and safeguard digital records. This chain documents every transfer of evidence from seizure to presenting the evidence in the Court of Law. The prosecution must prove that only authorised personnel handled and stored it properly at designated facilities. At crime scenes, officers must prevent evidence contamination, tampering, capture detailed photos and sketches, and record identities and statements.

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Kuruburu
The Kho Kho Village in Mysuru

By S.N. Venkatnag Sobers

Tucked between T. Narasipur and Muguru village in Mysuru district is a tiny village called Kuruburu. Located about 40 kms from Mysuru city, the village is home for about 50 kho kho players, who have represented the State in National and International tournaments.

With a population of about 1,000 people, Kuruburu has about 300 houses largely involving farming community and agricultural labourers. What is unique about Kuruburu is the fact that almost every household has a player who has taken up kho kho as a passion. The village is also dominated by women players who have represented University of Mysore for many years.

Kuruburu not only trains players from the village but has also been helping players from nearby Kothegala, Madarahalli, Seehalli, Thottavadi and Kannahalli to enhance their kho kho skills. Players are often seen coming on bicycles to Kuruburu from neighbouring villages for practice sessions held in the morning and evening.

Kuruburu came into limelight recently with **B. Chaithra** from the village selected for Indian Women's Team which won the first ever Kho Kho World Cup held in New Delhi. Earlier, there have been players such as **M. Veena,** who was the first player from the village to be selected for the Indian Women's Team during 2016 South Asian Games held at Guwahati and Shillong. Later, **Monika** and Chaithra went on to don the Team Indian jersey for International Tournament. Not only players, Kuruburu has also produced the International Kho Kho Referee in **K.S. Amulya,** who was the only woman from Karnataka to officiate in the recently held Kho Kho World Cup.

This tiny village has the distinction of being home for six players — **L. Monika, S. Vinutha, K.R. Tejashwini, B. Chaithra, K.M. Nisarga and S. Meghana** — who were part of Karnataka Women's team that took part in the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand from Jan. 28 to Feb. 2.

In the year 2023, 13 out of 15 players in the University of Mysore Women's Kho Kho Team belonged to Kuruburu village and in the following year, 12 players from the village were part of the Varsity team.

The players are so dedicated towards kho kho that they do not stop their practice even for a single day irrespective of festivals and National holidays. Everyday about 70 players, 40 girls and 30 boys, are seen practicing rigorously at Vidyadarshini School in the village in morning and evening batches. And among the 40 girls, at least 30 players have represented the State in National-level Tournaments over the past few years. The practice in the morning session starts at 6 am and ends at 7.45 am to make way for the students to attend school and college. Later, in the afternoon session, players in the school start their practice at 3.30 pm and the seniors join them at 4.30 pm and the session is held till about 6.30 pm.

Kuruburu, the tiny village in Mysuru district with just about 1,000 population, has the credit of producing kho kho players of National repute.

Background

It all started in 2008, when **K. Manjunath** joined Vidyadarshini School as a mathematics teacher. With no sporting activities being taken up at the school, Manjunath took the mantle upon himself to train the school children in kho kho, as he was a kho kho player himself.

The journey to reach the Nationals has been tough as the school team could not make it even to the top four at Hobli-level for first two years. Undeterred by the setbacks, the team continued to practice under Manjunath's watchful eyes and reached the District-level in 2009 but lost in the Divisional-level. It was in 2010 that the team tasted its first success with players from Kuruburu selected for State and National-level Tournament. Since then, they have not looked back. In fact, it has been women players who have brought laurels to Kuruburu compared to their male counterparts with about 30 of them having played in the National-level.

No special diet

With a good number of players representing the State and the National-level, one could feel that the players are being given special diet to increase fitness and stamina. Kuruburu being a tiny village and majority of the players coming from lower middle class and middle class families, there is no room for special diet. These players, who have grown up having *Raagi Mudde* (Raagi balls), chapathi and veggies, continue to consume the same even today. They consume only hygienic food to ensure they do not fall on their fitness.

Coach's vision

K. Manjunath has a vision of seeing majority of the players from Kuruburu to be a part of the Indian Team at the time when kho kho is included in Asian Games and Olympics.

"I did not get encouragement during my school or college days to pursue kho kho. But, I have ensured to provide an atmosphere at Kuruburu for students to play kho kho and flourish. It would be great to see majority of the players from our village to be part of the Indian Kho Kho Team in International Tournaments," he hopes.

Kho kho players during their practice session at Vidyadarshini School.

Champions from Kuruburu

FROM LEFT: *L. Monika, S. Vinutha, K.R. Tejashwini, B. Chaithra, K.M. Nisarga and S. Meghana posing with bronze medals they won representing Karnataka kho kho team in National Games 2025 at Uttarakhand.*

An inspiration for youngsters

M. Veena is the first player from Kuruburu to play for Indian Women's Team in 2016. She has represented the State in 51 National Tournaments and country in South Asian Games. She is also the recipient of 'Kreeda Ratna Award' in 2017 presented by Karnataka Olympic Association and 'Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai Award' in 2019 instituted by Kho Kho Federation of India. An inspiration for kho kho players in Kuruburu, Veena has been serving as a Post Woman at Saraswathipuram Post Office in Mysuru. "It feels great that kho kho players from Kuruburu are making headlines at National-level. We are thankful for Manjunath sir for inspiring and encouraging us to take up kho kho. It is because of him that we have been recognised at National-level. We are also grateful to our parents for supporting all our endeavours," she says.

From Player to International Referee

K.S. Amulya was the lone woman referee from Karnataka to be a part of the officials' team at Kho Kho World Cup-2025. Having played professional kho kho for the past 16 years, she passed the All India Referee Examination in 2018 and later National Workshops held at Punjab, Warangal and Delhi to be certified as a qualified Kho Kho Referee. Currently working as a Physical Education Teacher at Vidyodaya Girls High School in T. Narasipur, Amulya has represented the University of Mysore for five years and Davanagere University for a year. "We were not that good in any sport. Manjunath sir joining our school was a blessing in disguise. He encouraged us to practice regularly and because of which we have seen many players from our village reach the National and International-level," says Amulya.

A dream come true...

It has been a journey of hardship. Having attended the National Women's Camp thrice, getting selected to Indian Team for the World Cup was dream come true. Like all other players, even I am thankful to Manjunath sir for all his encouragement. I only hope that this sport gets more and more recognition in the days to come. **—B. Chaithra**

Will continue to work hard

We are happy that one of our seniors played at the World Cup and we are inspired to follow her path to play for India. Though kho kho was started at the school for fitness, now it is played professionally with players representing the State in the Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior levels. **—R. Arpitha, University of Mysore player**

CM's Commendation Award

M.S. Geetha, ANO, Third Officer and an Assistant Teacher at Police Public School, Mysuru, receiving Chief Minister's Commendation Award under Karnataka-Goa Directorate, from Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar and Dy. Director General, NCC Karnataka and Goa Directorate, Air Commodore Bevinmarad Arunkumar VSM, in Bengaluru recently.

NAAC B+ for Vidyavardhaka Law College

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) team was on a two-day visit to Vidyavardhaka Law College, Mysuru, recently.

The team headed by Prof. (Dr.) Dali Jabbal from Odisha comprised Prof. Mohammad Tariq from Uttar Pradesh as Coordinator and Prof. Rajini Malhotra Dingra from New Delhi. They gathered comprehensive information about the college's overall academic and administrative progress.

College Principal P. Deepu, along with Assistant Professors and IQAC Coordinator Shridevi Krishnarao, provided the team with all necessary information.

After 50 years since its inception, the College has received B+ accreditation which will remain valid for the next 5 years.

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City Chef baking for Health

Janani, the creator of "Athrini," which is ranked as one of India's Cleanest Food Brands, seen with her creation in her kitchen.

In the changing foodscape that is increasingly getting conscious of both health and ethical consumption, Janani, the "Vegan Chef of Mysore" is a rising star.

Embracing a plant-based lifestyle, she has applied her philosophy to the culinary arts and launched her vegan concept food brand called "Athrini," which is ranked amongst the Cleanest Food Brands in India.

Janani under her Athrini brand makes gluten-free, plant-based, refined sugar-free, pure and clean hand-crafted delights.

After years of working as a Corporate Lawyer, Janani's deep interest in food and her devotion to mindful eating motivated her to change the way we think about food.

This journey led her to study plant-based culinary arts at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu School in London, and hence Athrini was born.

In an interview with *Star of Mysore,* Janani shared insights into her innovative vegan food concept, which she has meticulously crafted. —Ed

By Shadan Muneer

Star of Mysore (SOM): From the lawyer's black coat to the baking apron, take us through your journey.

Janani: Having studied at London School of Economics and being a Corporate Lawyer definitely stimulated me intellectually but over time it wasn't providing me with the fulfilment I was seeking. I yearned for a career that resonated with my values; my love for animals and strong bond with nature eventually led me to study plant-based culinary arts in London. While Law is a part of my existence, "Athrini" truly defines me.

The goal of "Athrini" is to redefine how people experience desserts by proving that indulgence can be both nourishing and delightful. We aim to offer healthier eating options that make wholesome cuisine enjoyable, flavourful and satisfying. This journey has been incredibly rewarding.

SOM: You have an established legacy of being from a family of restauranters with your father owning the renowned RRR Group of Hotels. Has your family's support & expertise been beneficial?

Janani: My father, G. Ravi Shankar has dedicated 43 years to the food industry and has provided me with valuable insights into the food industry, cost management and instilling an appreciation for customer value, while emphasising the importance of selecting high-quality ingredients. However, my culinary philosophy diverges significantly. I was raised on a predominantly plant-based diet, shunning sugary drinks and having little inclination towards meat, which is evident in my food brand.

[Continued on Page - 42]

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Baking for Health

[Continued from Page - 40]

SOM: What inspired "Athrini"?

Janani: My transition from the law to food was greatly influenced by my love for focused, wholesome and deliberate enjoyment. "Athrini," which is based on the three 'A's — *Athman* (soul), *Aarogyam* (health) and *Aikyam* (harmony with nature) — was created because I want people to experience clean eating guilt-free and to balance health, nature and soul via food.

SOM: In addition to your studies in Culinary Arts, what other courses did you pursue to master this art?

Janani: I completed an online course in Food and Nutrition from Cornell University, USA. I have conducted extensive research and as an enthusiastic traveller, I have had the privilege of engaging with vegan chefs from various countries and gained valuable insights into veganism allowing me to develop my own unique culinary philosophy.

SOM: Your signature gluten-free sourdoughs are unique in India. Take us through the array of your other products & highlight the best sellers?

Janani: Our biscottis have emerged as the top sellers, crafted from millets, almond and rice flour. Additionally, we offer chocolate cookies containing 70 percent dark chocolate and buckwheat, ensuring they are gluten-free. Other popular items include tea cakes, shortbreads, nut butters and spreads such as beetroot hummus and mint spreads.

Ironman couple of India Ingit Anand** (extreme right) **and his wife Shaily Chauhan seen with Janani, Founder of "Athrini" at a vegan food event in Bengaluru.

Yes, "Athrini" has excelled in creating gluten-free sourdough breads that no other brand does in India which possess a unique appearance and flavour that have attracted many customers to sample my offerings. Each product is crafted with a focus on taste and health.

SOM: "Athrini" has been recognised as one of India's Cleanest Food Brands; with the popularity of plant-based options, what sets your products apart in terms of quality & taste?

Janani: We have mastered the challenge of combining plant-based, gluten-free and refined sugar-free ingredients, a feat no other café in Mysuru has achieved. While mass-market products often use additives for texture, we focus on letting our high-quality, thoughtfully combined ingredients shine, sourcing them from across India — cacao beans from Kerala and Rajahmundry, sweet potato flour from Odisha, chocolate from Ladakh, khandsari sugar from Mumbai and other wholesome ingredients from Organic Mandya, ensuring premium quality and right proportions are key to our offerings.

SOM: Is there a large customer base in Mysuru or do you serve clients outside the city? What marketing strategies do you use?

Janani: While the concept remains relatively niche in Mysuru, there's a great opportunity to educate the public about this unique cuisine. Additionally, I do serve clients in Bengaluru, where the feedback has been encouraging. Given that baking products have a finite shelf life, we prioritise small batch production to ensure quality and avoid large-scale manufacturing.

My marketing efforts include leveraging social media, maintaining a robust network of contacts and participating in pop-up stalls at culinary festivals. Currently, we operate from a cloud kitchen and you can connect with us on Instagram *@athriniofficial* to discover the unique offerings.

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From footpath to fame

City artisan couple's miniature mantra for success

By Nandini Srinivasan

From selling miniature wooden furniture on the footpaths outside Mysuru Dasara Exhibition to crafting intricate replicas of Mysore's iconic structures, **J. Murugesh,** the man behind 'Mysore Miniatures,' has carved a unique niche in the world of handicrafts.

His journey is a tale of resilience, creativity and community support that transformed a modest hobby into a thriving cottage industry.

It all began 35 years ago when Murugesh hand-crafted the first wooden miniature of the Mysore Palace. Though rudimentary compared to today's polished models, it was the seed of an idea that has since blossomed into a celebrated craft.

Now, his workshop hums with the efforts of 20 skilled women who meticulously assemble miniatures of Mysuru's iconic landmarks, including Mysore Palace, prominent Circles like K.R. Circle and Silver Jubilee Clock Tower, as well as Bengaluru's famed structures.

Murugesh's story is deeply rooted in humble beginnings. After completing his SSLC, he joined his uncle as an assistant and learned the art of wood inlay work.

> "What began as 'Murugesh Handicrafts' evolved into 'Mysore Miniatures' seven years ago, with a shift to modern manufacturing techniques. Today, the intricate parts of these models are cut on lathe machines, but the human touch remains essential. A team of skilled women assemble the pieces with precision and care, ensuring the charm and authenticity of the miniatures."

Artisan couple Murugesh and Nagajyothi with the miniature collections.

During lunch breaks, he would collect wood scraps and transform them into miniature furniture with his nimble fingers. This hobby soon became a small-scale venture, but his first attempt at selling his creations during the Dasara Exhibition almost ended in despair.

Initial recognition

"I spread a small carpet at the expo entrance and displayed my work, but no one even glanced at it," Murugesh recalls.

Lalithamma of Gopika Agarbathis noticed his talent and purchased his pieces. Her encouragement was the turning point. She not only motivated him to continue but also became his first customer for a hand-crafted model of Mysore Palace.

Through Lalithamma, Murugesh connected with R.G. Singh of Ramsons Kala Pratishtana, who played a pivotal role in expanding his creative horizons.

Singh's ideas and support helped Murugesh create miniatures of other beloved Mysuru's icons, such as the Aane Sarot (elephant chariot), camel carts and bullock carts. Murugesh fondly credits both Lalithamma and Singh for their unwavering guidance, which shaped his career. What began as 'Murugesh Handicrafts' evolved into 'Mysore Miniatures' seven years ago, with a shift to modern manufacturing techniques.

[Continued on Page - 48]

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Subsidy for Millet Kitchen

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Applications have been invited from Farmer Producers Organisations (FPO) or Farmers Groups, for providing subsidy under Nutri Siri Dhanya Scheme of Central Government sponsored Food and Nutritional Security Scheme for the year 2024-25, to establish Millet Kitchen, Processing Units, Market Support and Processing Clusters.

The registered Farmers Organisations and Groups shall be provided one-time subsidy up to Rs. 50 lakh, for primary and secondary-level processing units and godown facility while one-time subsidy of Rs. 5 lakh for setting up Millet Kitchen, including organic certification of Millets, branding and market support.

If the project proposal is estimated to cost Rs. 5 lakh and above, applicants should have compulsorily taken loan from any bank or financial institutions for setting up units and the subsidy from the Centre will be converted into loan-based subsidy.

Beneficiaries should mandatorily submit following details in the Detailed Project Report (DPR): application format, documents of building to set up the unit, DPR, MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Udyog Aadhaar Registration Certificate, Copy of the Blue Print and Flow Diagram on the level of activities; general licence obtained from local bodies to set up the unit; electricity supply and affidavit on not taking any assistance from other State and Central Government Departments, copies of Aadhaar and PAN.

For further details, contact nearby Raitha Samparka Kendra, Office of Assistant Director of Agriculture or Joint Director of Agriculture, according to a press release.

Babbur Kamme Scholarship

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The Babbur Kamme Sangha, Mysuru, will be providing scholarship for the community students residing in Mysuru.

Interested students may obtain the prescribed application form from the Sangha Office in Saraswathipuram and submit the filled-in applications to the office before Feb. 20.

Scholarship will be distributed on Feb. 22 at 11.30 am.

For further details, contact Mob: 96325-51192 or 99452-48952, according to a press release from Sangha Hon. Secretary M.K. Ravikumar.

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Mysore Miniatures

[Continued from Page - 44]

Today, the intricate parts of these models are cut on lathe machines, but the human touch remains essential. A team of skilled women assemble the pieces with precision and care, ensuring the charm and authenticity of the miniatures.

The 69-year-old **Puttamma**, who, despite not having attended school, now understands measurements with impressive accuracy. "Precision is her mantra," Murugesh says proudly of his team's dedication.

Bringing replicas to life

Nestled in Karakushalanagara, near the Ring Road and GRS Fantasy Park, lies the creative workshop of 'Mysore Miniatures,' a testament to artistic ingenuity and community spirit. Here, a team of 20 skilled women meticulously bring miniature replicas to life, performing tasks like polishing, soldering, cutting, assembling and colouring with finesse and passion.

For **Lakshmi**, a dedicated artisan with 17 years of experience, her craft is more than a job. "I feel proud creating these world famous structures," she shares. She credits the simplicity of the designs provided by 'Anna' — as Murugesh is affectionately called — for making her work enjoyable and fulfilling.

Unlike traditional industries, this workshop has no production stress. The workflow is dictated by orders, fostering a relaxed and co-operative environment. Among the youngest team members are **Sangeeta** and **Rakshita**, both having completed their 2nd PUC, who eagerly learn the intricacies of the craft from senior artisans, many of whom have never attended school but possess exceptional skills and experience. The workshop produces an array of miniatures, from Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Chamundi Hill to Jaganmohan Palace, the old wooden Palace, CFTRI and St. Philomena's Church.

Palace, a crown jewel

Mysore Palace, however, remains the crown jewel. Its smallest model measures six inches, while the largest reaches an impressive 40 inches, complete with a compound wall — a must-have for collectors seeking an authentic replication of the royal city.

Beyond Mysuru, the collection also features landmarks like Vidhana Soudha while work is underway to create a model of Ayodhya Ram Mandir. Depending on the size, assembling a model takes anywhere from half a day to a full day, showcasing the intricate craftsmanship involved.

Murugesh, supported by his wife, **Nagajyothi,** firmly believes in employing and training women. "Women are naturally deft and quicker at such intricate art," he explains, highlighting his commitment to empowering them.

A self-taught artisan, who mastered his craft through trial and error after passing his SSLC, Murugesh expresses the need for Government support to provide technical training for artisans. "Such training would help us refine our skills and create even more appealing designs," he says.

He fondly recalls the encouragement he received from the then Deputy Commissioner of Handicrafts, Devarmani, who enabled him to showcase his work at exhibitions. His first exhibition, during the Car Festival at Udupi's Palimaru Mutt, was a resounding success, with every piece sold out. Since then, Murugesh has exhibited his creations across India, garnering admiration and recognition for his craftsmanship.

Karakushalanagara, home to over 480 artisan families, is a hub of creativity. While some specialise in Mysuru's famed wood inlay work, others, like Murugesh, have turned their passions into thriving cottage industries. For those unable to start their own ventures, working for others ensures the continuation of this rich artistic legacy.

Through his dedication, Murugesh has not only preserved Mysuru's heritage in miniature form but also fostered a community of artisans, empowering them to carry forward the tradition of craftsmanship that defines the royal city.

Third date fixed for Cabinet Meeting atop M.M. Hills

Chamarajanagar, Feb. 16 (VNS)- A new date has been fixed for the State Cabinet Meeting to be held atop Male Mahadeshwara (M.M.) Hills in the district.

According to sources, the Cabinet Meeting will be held on Mar. 8 followed by a mega convention of the beneficiaries of Guarantee Schemes at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium on Mar. 9.

This is the third time that there has been a change in schedule of the Cabinet Meeting atop the Hills. Earlier, Feb. 16 was announced as the date for mega convention followed by Cabinet Meeting on Feb. 17. Previously, two other schedules had been announced. People of the district, including the farming community, are expecting the State Government to announce special packages for the district.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Sugarcane Growers Association President Hallikerehundi Bhagyaraj said that people have been expecting major announcements for the district including measures to solve drinking water and electricity issues.

"We were expecting special package to the district. However, the State Government has been postponing the Cabinet meeting atop M.M. Hills, as it is now inevitable to announce special package for the district," he added.

Meanwhile, DC Shilpa Nag said, on earlier two occasions, the Cabinet Meeting that was to be held atop M.M. Hills had been postponed. However, the State Government has announced Mar. 8 and 9 as the revised dates for Cabinet Meeting and mega convention respectively.

With the new dates announced for the Cabinet Meeting, it is to be seen whether it would be held as per the new schedule. People have also been questioning about frequent postponement of Cabinet Meeting on two previous occasions.

The State Government having called for the Budget Session in March, people have expressed their doubts over the Cabinet Meeting to be held in the district.

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Over a cup of evening Tea

By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

The Strange ways of Destiny!

A forest fire on the MM Hills, photographed by the author from the front porch of their house in 1990.

The unseen hand of God or Destiny or Providence, or by whatever name we may choose to call it, has some very strange ways of playing with our lives. And, perhaps no one sees it at work, more often and more closely, than a practicing doctor like me. **And, over forty long years, I have on more occasions than one, seen the twists and turns that it has given to the outcomes of medical treatment, which have left me amazed, perplexed, deeply grateful and sometimes deeply distressed too!**

I am narrating here one such incident from my own life which I feel is worth sharing with my readers. I am talking of the time exactly thirty-five years ago, when I was working as a young, newly married physician, attached to a Christian Mission Hospital, perched on the very fringe of what was then known far and wide, as **'Veerappan Territory'** in **Malai Mahadeshwara Hills**, that stand between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Veerappan, the elephant poacher and sandalwood smuggler, was then the most dreaded man in the region, whose reign of terror held the law enforcers of three States on tenterhooks, for over twenty long years, while taking a huge toll of the lives of men and beasts alike. The former he slaughtered mercilessly because they stood in his way and the latter he slaughtered for their tusks. His domain began, where the domain of our hospital ended and the abode my wife and I considered our home for many years and brought up our two children in, was a solitary, storybook house, standing on a vast, thirty-acre plot of land.

On all four sides, it had views of the distant hills, across seemingly endless plains. Watching the sunrise and sunset from our porch, day in and day out and the giant full moon rising from behind the hills, once a month and an occasional forest fire, burning bright on the hills, was the magic we lived on!

The four of us, spent, what we still consider some of the happiest days of our lives, in those pristine, wooded surroundings, from which we had to draw ourselves away only with much effort and a sense of loss too, when my children needed to begin their formal schooling. Until then, they were both schooled only by their love for nature, which we tried our best to instil in them and which has thankfully remained deeply ingrained in them even now, long after they have finished their education and have begun to reap its fruits.

Being the only big hospital in the vast forested region, we used to get all kinds of medical cases, minor, major and very often hopelessly beyond any help, because for villagers dwelling beyond the shadow of civilisation, medical care was not easily accessible. Even now, more than three decades later, the scenario is not much different, for a good many of them. The commonest problems we used to treat were advanced infections, injuries, snake bites and pesticide poisonings, both accidental and intentional. Nothing very unusual or surprising, because people injured themselves quite often while at work and snakes abounded in the forests and pesticides were widely used in all the farmlands.

One evening we got one such case of pesticide poisoning as we were winding up our work for the day. The patient was a very young handsome boy, from a fairly wealthy farming family, barely aged twenty, whom I shall call Raju for two very simple reasons. **Firstly, because a doctor is not supposed to reveal the real identity of patients he or she treats and secondly because Raju is for some strange reason, the most favourite storybook name, that we all know of, through all the books we read and all the movies we see!**

While the storybook Raju does many interesting things in the books and movies he figures in, my Raju was in my consulting room that evening because he had chosen to consume a large dose of pesticide to snuff out his young life, that had not even begun to see life, in its true sense!

The reason why he resorted to this extreme act was because right from the day he turned eighteen and thus legally eligible to ride it, he was pestering his parents to buy him a motorcycle, and they had been dodging and delaying it for reasons of their own. The main reason for their reluctance to accede to his request was because they felt that he was still too young to ride a motorcycle. A reasonable enough fear, which most parents have, out of concern for the safety of their children, but which most children, sadly do not understand.

Raju's condition was very critical for three reasons. Firstly, he had consumed a very heavy dose of a very potent pesticide, from what is known as the Organo-Phosphorous category which are all extremely lethal. Secondly, he had done it away from home, in the pump house of his farm where he was noticed lying unconscious next to a poignant suicide note, by one of the farmhands, a couple of hours after the act. The third reason was because their farmstead was located in a very remote place far away from any medical help, with the nearest hospital being ours, more than twenty miles away. Now he was lying completely unconscious before me, clearly looking like he was beyond any help. But I tried my best to console his distraught parents and only sister who was considerably older than him and who I was told was very close to him, being almost like a second mother!

This done, we got down to giving him a thorough stomach wash in the emergency room and then shifting him to the ward for further treatment. Despite our best efforts, the boy seemed to be hanging between life and death, only by an invisible thread of destiny, taking more than two full weeks to recover and regain consciousness completely.

There were times when we were certain that we would lose him but somehow, he continued to pull on. **I felt that the passionate pleadings by his parents and sister, during his frequent intermittent periods of semi-consciousness, to get well and come back home and ride his dream motorcycle, which helped as much as our treatment itself.**

Once ready for discharge, the family and a host of their relatives came with a priest who performed thanksgiving pujas at the bedside of the patient and declared that he was fit to go home. They distributed sweets to all the other patients and the hospital staff before thanking us all and taking Raju home in a decorated jeep, like a bridegroom going in a *baraat* to his wedding!

A very weak but yet beaming Raju bid farewell to everyone around as the jeep drove off and we at the hospital heaved a sigh of relief and thanked God, for gifting us the miracle of Raju's recovery, because it was indeed nothing short of it.

After his discharge, Raju would come regularly for his weekly check-up and he soon was in the pink of health. Then one fine day, he came to the hospital smartly dressed in jeans and a jacket, wearing goggles and riding a brand-new motorcycle, with his sister in a bright silk saree, riding pillion with him. The duo once again thanked us all profusely and drove off and vanished into the distance, while we stood and watched in amazement.

That was the last time we saw Raju, our patient who had defied death, only because he was destined to live! But a little less than a month later, his sister turned up at the hospital wailing loudly, even as she entered the lobby.

When we gathered around her and asked what had happened, between uncontrollable sobs, she told us that her dear brother Raju was no more.

A week ago, while riding his dream bike, as he was going to the family temple, which he had vowed to visit after his miraculous recovery, he hit a truck head-on and met his end, this time, instantly! Through misty eyes, I could visualise the boy's smiling face, as I stood transfixed and pondered over the strange ways of destiny. **Cicero, the Roman philosopher, was so right when he said: 'Fate guides the willing and drags the unwilling!'**

e-mail:
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AWARDS

Entries Invited

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The Social Welfare Department has invited applications for Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Award and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Award, as part of the 118th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram (Apr. 5) and 134th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Apr. 14) respectively.

Candidates, who have worked for the cause of uplift of Scheduled Castes (SC) and have made notable contributions, are eligible to apply for the awards.

The prescribed application forms can be obtained from the Office of Assistant Director, Social Welfare Department, either at the district-level or taluk-level offices and submit the two sets of duly filled-in applications at the respective taluk-level Social Welfare Department office, along with relevant documents.

Last date to apply is Feb. 18, according to a release from the Office of the Joint Director, Social Welfare Department.

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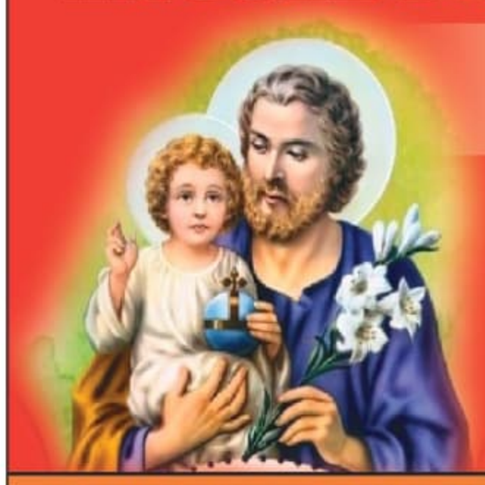

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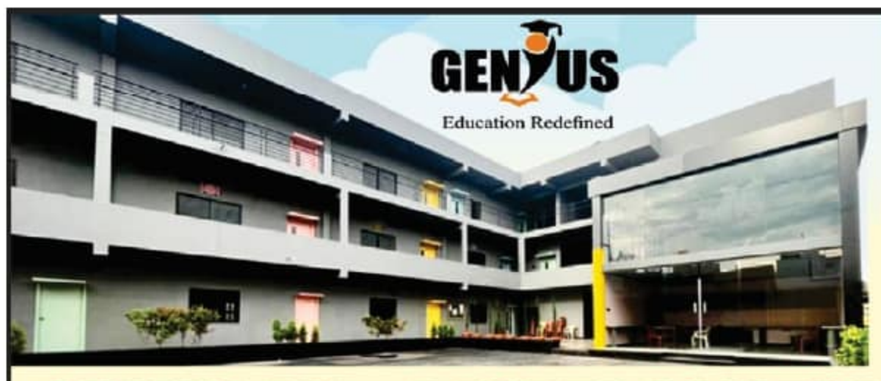

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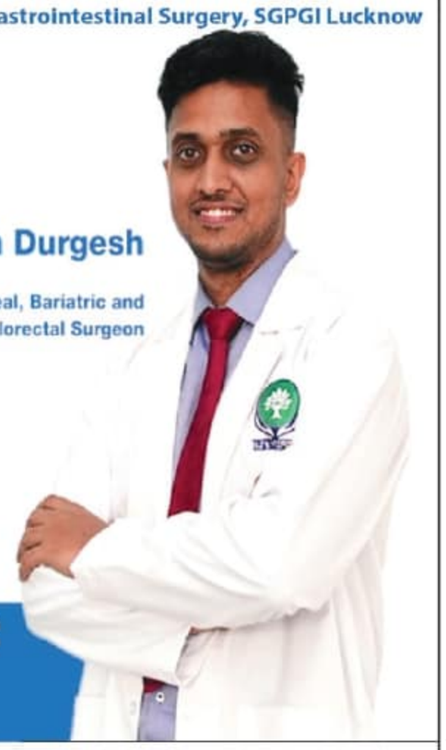

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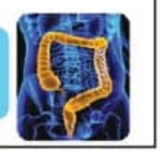

For the love of WOODCRAFTING

Bram Rouws sitting on his award-winning swing designed by Annkur Khosla for American Hardwoods Export Council (AHEC).

Bram Rouws amidst his creative products at his factory in Mysuru.

Bram Rouws, the French man, who has made Mysuru his home, is making creative ripples in the world of wood-crafting.

He, in the short time, has become a name respected and known for bespoke furniture, elegant swings and solid wood products. Apart from this, Bram also runs a wood-crafting school in Mysuru.

On behalf of *Star of Mysore*, Sujata Rajpal met this master craftsman to speak to him about his journey and love for furniture.

—Ed

By Sujata Rajpal

I'm a carpenter by profession, **says Bram Rouws, Founder-Director of Bram Woodcrafting Studio (BWS) and Woodcrafting School, as we meet in his office at his factory in Mysuru. Bram is a carpenter, cabinet-maker and furniture designer, states BWS' website.**

Bram's journey from Limoges, a quaint town in South-West - Central France, to Mysuru began in 2011, when he toured India as a member of Les Compagnons du Tour de France, a guild of master craftsmen. This guild, a UNESCO World Heritage entity since 2010, promotes traditional skills and cross-cultural learning. During his time in Kolkata, Bram joined Terra Indica and was quick to wear his mentor hat when he trained orphaned and underprivileged children in carpentry, eventually employing them.

Kolkata also played cupid. Bram met his future wife, a Bharatanatyam and contemporary dancer and teacher originally from Assam. "She was the reason I chose to make India my home," Bram confesses with a shy smile. The couple has a four-year-old daughter.

[Continued on Page - 58]

Youth and Leadership

Sudarshan Sharma of V-LEAD addressing the youths.

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Yi Mysuru, in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) - Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development (V-LEAD), had organised a Workshop on Youth and Leadership at V-LEAD Campus recently.

It was designed to equip young participants with essential leadership skills, focusing on emotional intelligence, self-management, decision-making and team dynamics. Participants were guided on how to lead with vision and empathy while tackling real-world challenges.

Supriya Salian, Past Chair, CII Mysuru & Managing Director, PLANSEE India High Performance Materials Pvt. Ltd., in her inaugural address, emphasised the critical role of leadership in shaping the future and urged the youths to embrace their potential to drive meaningful change.

The sessions were led by distinguished faculty members Sudarshan Sharma and Ramesh Venkatraman from V-LEAD. Their expertise and engaging methodology fostered a dynamic learning environment, leaving attendees motivated to apply these skills in their lives.

Around 50 students along with Yuva members participated in the workshop which served as a platform to inspire them to take up leadership roles that positively impact their communities.

Gagan Ranka, Chair, Yi Mysuru, Maria Andrews, Chair - Climate Change Vertical, Kiran Huilgol, Chair - Rural Initiatives vertical, Gautham Raju, Co-Chair - Yuva Vertical - Yi Mysuru, among others were present.

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Exploring the Cosmos

Astro-Night at Mahajana College

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The Department of Physics and Department of Geography at SBRR Mahajana First Grade College, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru, had organised Astro-Night event recently at its Jagadish Prasad Stadium.

Vasant Hegde, Vice-Principal, Wisdom PU College, Kuvempunagar, who was the resource person, spoke about planetary alignments and space-related topics. The event also included discussions on cosmology, space exploration and mythology.

The main attraction was the celestial viewing session, where participants observed the Moon. Through the lens of the telescope, participants marvelled at the intricate features of it, unveiling its rugged terrain and ancient craters.

Vasant provided insightful commentary, shedding light on the geological history of Earth's natural satellite.

The phases of Venus planet were also shown and explained by the speaker. Amidst the twilight, Saturn and its rings were shown for a short time before it set below the horizon.

Looking at Jupiter and 4 of its biggest Moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, was one of the biggest highlight of the event. People also enjoyed seeing Mars, the red planet, which is our neighbour.

As the grand finale, the telescope turned towards the Orion Nebula, a celestial cradle where stars are born.

Attendees were spellbound by the swirling clouds of gas and dust, a testament to the perpetual cycle of creation and destruction in the cosmos. Many attendees, especially children, showed great interest in the observations and asked various questions about space and science.

Dr. B.R. Jayakumari, Principal, SBRR Mahajana First Grade College, Dr. S. Poornima, Head, Department of Physics, Dr. S. Somashekar, Head, Department of Geography, V. Gayathri, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, student coordinators Abhay Muralidhar, S. Shreenidhi, K.S. Samudyatha, N.D. Jeevan and S. Chethan, teaching, non-teaching staff and students along with localites attended the event.

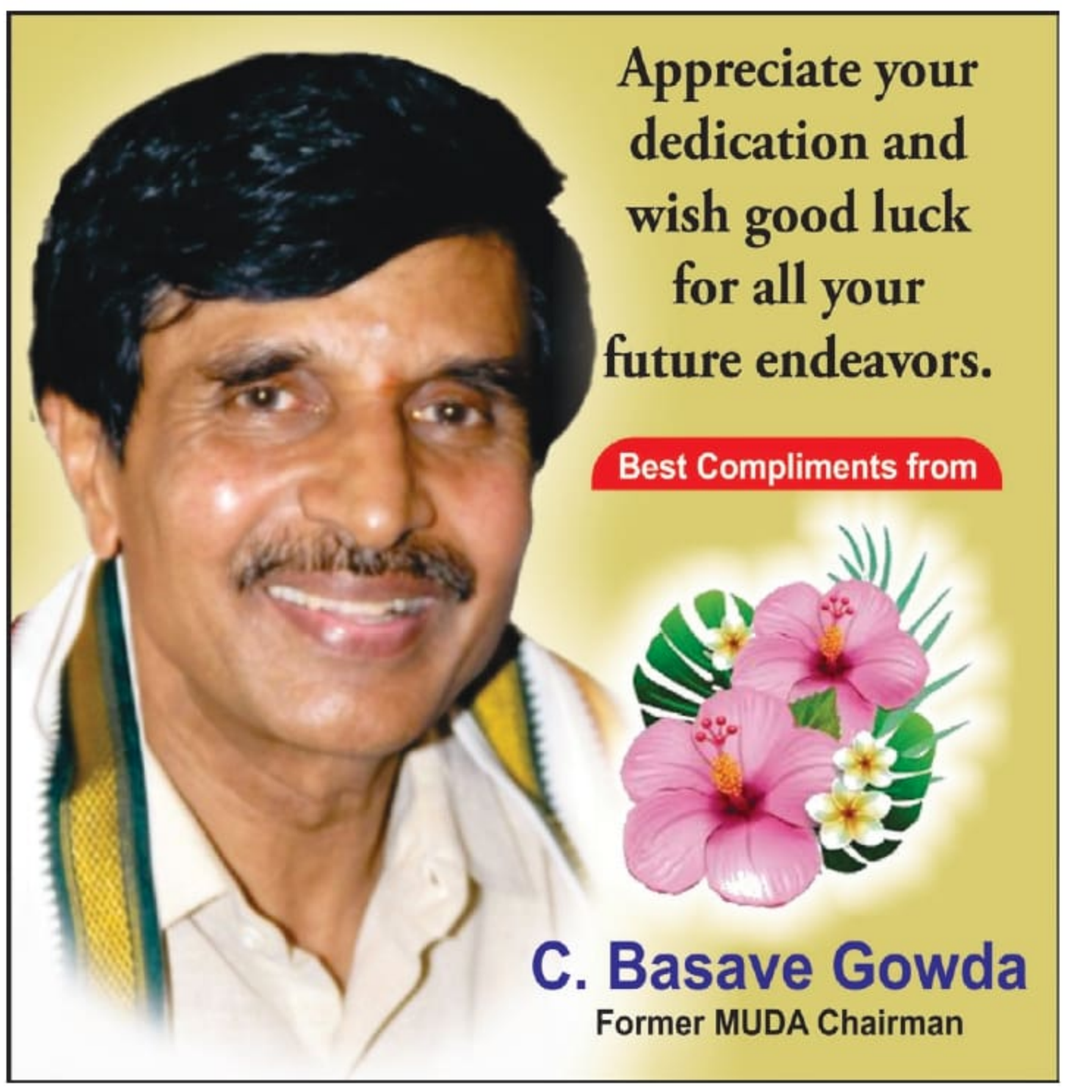
Valedictory of Prof. L.S. Sheshagiri Rao Birth Centenary celebrations in B'luru

Prof. Rao

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Kannada Geleyara Balaga, Bengaluru, has organised the valedictory of Prof. L.S. Sheshagiri Rao (LSS) Birth Centenary celebrations at Kannada Bhavana on J.C. Road in Bengaluru on Feb. 17 at 5 pm.

On the occasion, LSS website and 'Kannada Vishesha Sahitya Giri' book will be launched. Also, achievers from various fields will be felicitated — Dr. Veerappa Moily, Dr. C.N. Ramachandran, Dr. Doddarangegowda, Nagamani S. Rao, Dr. Babu Krishnamurthy, Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta, Dr. Wooday P. Krishna, Nithin Sha, V.C. Chennegowda and R. Ramakrishna.

Dr. Veerappa Moily will inaugurate the event. Nadoja Dr. G.R. Channabasappa will preside. Dr. C.N. Ramachandran will release the book. Prof. Mallepuram G. Venkatesh will deliver the valedictory address. Bharathi Seshagiri Rao, Dr. R. Sheshashastri and Dr. T.N. Vasudevamurthy will be present.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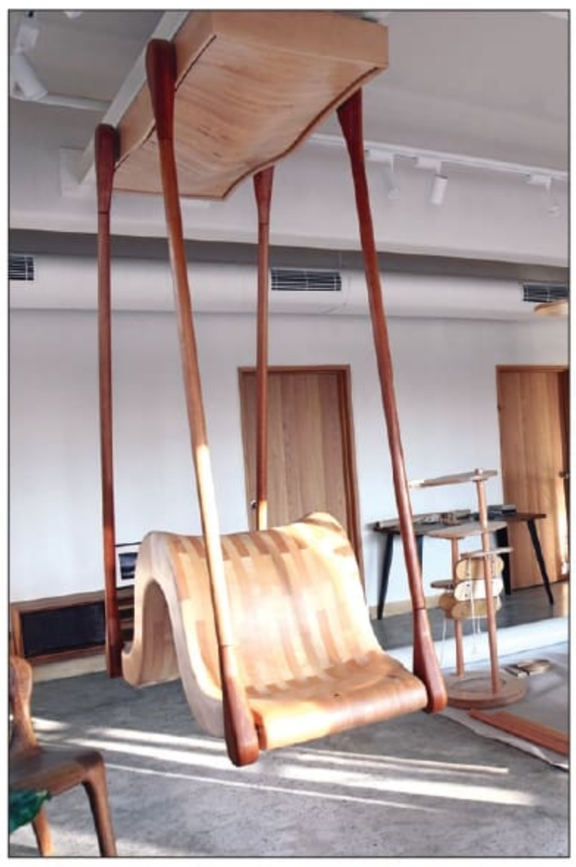

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In 2017, Bram's dream of transitioning from artisan to entrepreneur became a reality when he founded Bram Woodcrafting Studio (BWS) in Mysuru. Today, BWS employs 135 people, both men and women, including managers, designers, carpenters, architects and artisans.

"Before starting BWS, I had studied carpentry for ten years," Bram shares with a hint of humility.

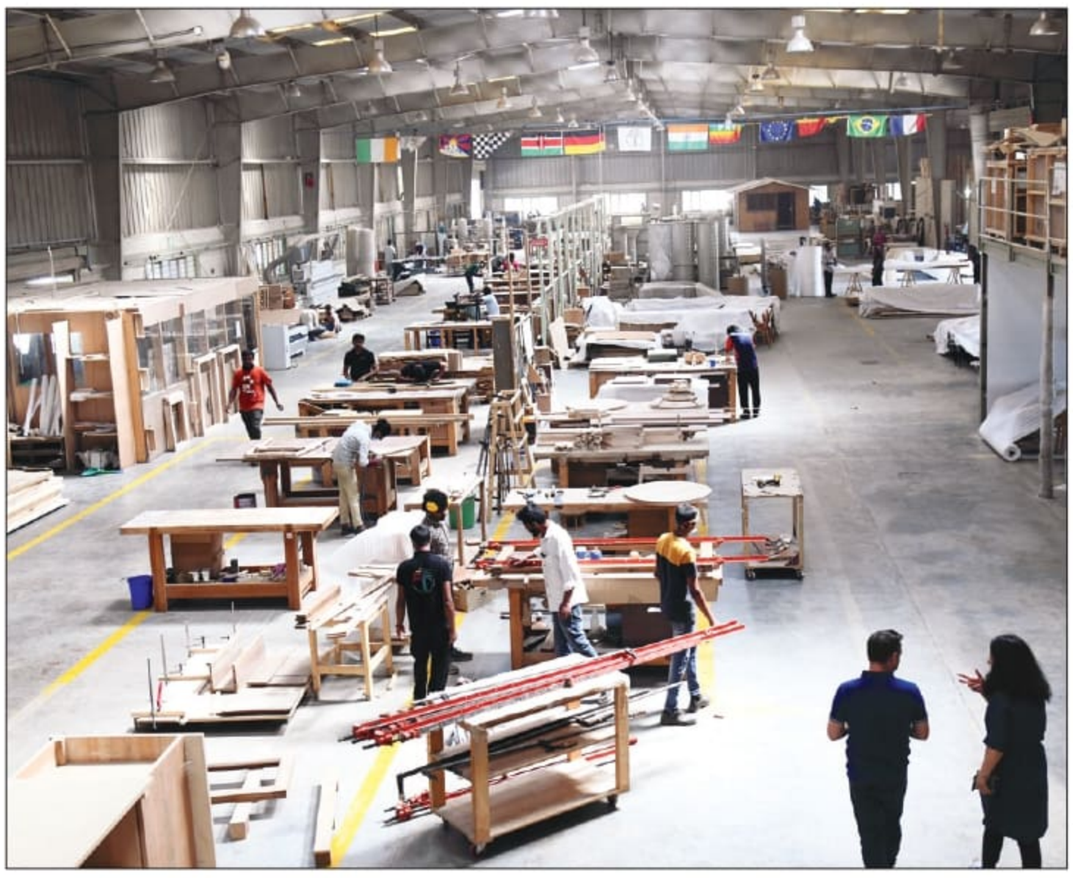
Why ten years? Why can't carpentry simply be learnt on the job? I couldn't help asking.

"Wood engineering is a full-fledged curriculum that teaches how to craft cabinets, wooden homes, furniture and interiors. It's not just manual labour, it's a craft that demands precision and knowledge," Bram explains while skilfully stirring the French press, the rich aroma of coffee filling his office with glass walls while their indie pet dog sleeps lazily by the large table.

BWS initially entered the market with furniture, gradually expanding to provide B2B solutions while also working directly with customers. "We collaborate with designers and architects to execute their visions," Bram adds. Partnering with the Vagh Group gave BWS a solid footing in the competitive wood-crafting industry.

The studio's work culture is grounded in four core principles: Conservation, innovation, sustainable development and education. Bram is passionate about blending high-tech processes with traditional techniques, ensuring that the artistry of wood-crafting is preserved.

"We import sustainable wood sourced from responsibly managed forests in America and Europe which prioritise replanting trees, ensuring no harm to livelihoods or environment," he tells, a pride smile playing on his handsome face.



A Woodcrafting School

In August 2024, Bram Rouws incepted a Woodcrafting School with an aim to make carpentry a skilled and dignified profession. The school provides high-quality training in carpentry, cabinet and furniture making to professionals. It also offers one-week induction programme for hobbyists.

Currently, the school has six students, including three women, undergoing six months of apprenticeship. Recognised by Skill India, the school requires no prior formal qualifications — just a passion for woodworking.

"Carpentry in India is often learned informally, passed down from senior carpenters without structured training," Bram explains.

"This oral transmission, coupled with low remuneration and lack of trust, discourages people from pursuing it as a career. Our school seeks to change that."

Students from diverse disciplines, including accounting, engineering and game design, are now pursuing their passion for wood-working.

With its focus on transforming carpentry into a polished, well-respected profession, the school is poised to create a new generation of skilled artisans. I couldn't agree more.

India needs such vocational institutes to elevate this craft and turn this profession from a blue collar job with small remuneration to a polished and dignified profession. May his tribe grow!

A Chronology of Vengeance

[Continued from Page - 18]

Move after hectic parleys

As was expected, his warning was laughed at and brushed away. **(I think KBG had written about this episode after the death of SDNR Wadiyar)** Wadiyar resigned from Congress and had made up his mind to join BJP at the behest of Rajamatha of Gwalior.

In those days when landlines were still the only mode of communication, my phone became unusually active in political circles. A call from PMO no less. PMO wanted me to convince SDNR Wadiyar to join his Samajwadi Janata Party and promised Rs. 1 crore+ resolution to his tax problems.

Soon, one Deepak called from Deputy PM Devi Lal's office for the same reason but the offer was Rs. 2 crore. In the midst of all, our own son of the soil was also keen to take SDNR Wadiyar in his fledgling political party and was camped in Mysore to meet Wadiyar.

I vividly remember that day — 17th April 1991. An early morning knock on my door. As I opened the door, whom did you see. Ambarish!

He had come as an emissary of Rajiv Gandhi. He wanted me to stop SDNR Wadiyar from joining any other party. In return, the party promised resolution to all his property disputes.

Coincidently, SDNR Wadiyar had arrived from Mysore the previous night and was staying in my house. I had no other choice but to wake him up and left the scene for the old friends to confabulate.

Vendetta politics

In the end, nothing could entice a stubborn Wadiyar. It is to the eternal credit of SDNR Wadiyar, he never used politics to resolve his personal problems. The same evening, he joined BJP at National College Grounds, Bengaluru, in the presence of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It did create political ripples as Wadiyar campaigned throughout the State. But as predicted by him Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991. Though BJP won in as many as three seats, SDNR Wadiyar lost.

It was the turn of Congress Government headed by S. Bangarappa to unleash vendetta politics now. In April 1992, the Cabinet quickly drafted the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition & Transfer) Ordinance, 1992 to take over the Palace immediately for Rs. 11 crore.

FROM LEFT: ***Members of erstwhile Mysore Royal Family Gajendra Singh, husband of late Princess Vishalakshi Devi; Darshika Kumari, wife of Om Upamanyu Dev Jhala (son of Princess Kamakshi Devi); Late Princess Vishalakshi Devi (last and fifth daughter of HH Jayachamaraja Wadiyar - JCRW); Om Upamanyu Dev Jhala; Princess Kamakshi Devi (third daughter of JCRW); Pramoda Devi Wadiyar (wife of late Prince Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar - SDNRW); Late Prince SDNRW; Samyukta Lakshmi (daughter of Princess Indrakshi Devi); Princess Indrakshi Devi (fourth daughter of JCRW); Rudra Pratap Singh (son of late Princess Vishalakshi Devi) and Deval Sodha (wife of Rudra Pratap Singh).***

The Ordinance was sent to the then Governor, Kurshid Alam Khan, a veteran Congressman. P.V. Narasimha Rao was the PM. Despite the grave threat, none of us tried to meet the Governor. Yet to the profound credit of the Governor, he rose above politics and refused the sign the Ordinance as under Article 213 (1)(c), it required the assent of the President.

The State Government had no choice but to send the Ordinance to the Centre for the assent of the President. Even the Home Ministry did not approve the Ordinance despite pressure from the State Governments headed by Bangarappa and M. Veerappa Moily.

Hurriedly piloted Bill

In the intervening period, the State Government tried to hasten proceedings under the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act (ULC) to wrest control over all the major properties of the royal family. K.J. George was the Urban Development Minister then. C. Shivappa (later Justice) was the Advocate General. But once again, High Court came to the rescue and stayed further proceedings to vest the properties in Sept 1992.

Alas! One more Assembly election and H.D. Deve Gowda became the CM in Dec. 1994 and *bête noire* like Siddaramaiah were calling the shots. As the repeal of the ULC was in the offing, the Ordinance was junked and instead, a Bill was hurriedly piloted in both the Houses in March 1996.

[Continued on Page - 60]

A Chronology of Vengeance

[Continued from Page - 59]

The Bill was sent to the Centre for assent once again. As a quirk of fate would have it, our very own son of the soil was catapulted to the *gaddi* of PM in June 1996. To our utter misfortune, Presidential Assent followed in November 1996.

The unusual case of a CM, who piloted the Bill, becoming PM to recommend to the President to assent the same Bill, was a failure of the Constitutional checks and balances never envisaged by the Constituent Assembly. Even the challenge to the Act was brushed aside in double quick time.

Every dark cloud has a silver lining and the Supreme Court admitted the Special Leave Petition (SLP) in April 1997 and as the few related Constitutional issues were before a Nine-Judge Bench, the appeals had to perforce await judgement in that case. Now that this issue is finally decided in Nov. 2024, things will have to be finally decided in the normal course.

In all these intervening periods from 1997 to 2025 (28 long years) SDNR Wadiyar and two of his sisters have left us. There have been many untold pinpricks by the Governments of the day and tax recovery officers threatening to attach our moveable and immovable assets for Wealth Tax dues of the very same Palaces which the State wants to expropriate for a farthing. Probably with the sole exception of S.M. Krishna, all CMs of all political hues have done their vicious best to add to our misery one way or the other.

TDR for 15 acres of Palace land

Take the much-publicised issue of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) for 15 acres of Bangalore Palace lands for road widening.

TDR as a concept was introduced way back in 2005 and many important roads were identified. When the Kempegowda International Airport at Devanahalli opened for operation in 2008, traffic increased by manifold on the Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) itself wrote to us seeking the surrender of the Palace lands on these roads immediately in lieu of TDR.

But once the land was surrendered, there was a flip-flop and the matter went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court ordered the issue of TDR. This was in November 2014. In the intervening period of 2014 to 2024, Karnataka has seen six CMs belonging to all the three major parties. Yet the road was not widened and the TDR remained elusive.

There were many flip-flops on whether the road should be widened or not. The naked and obvious reason for the dithering was the fact that TDR's encashable amount as compared to the pittance the 1996 Act offered. This left us no other choice but to file Contempt of Court proceedings for brazenly ignoring the orders of the Apex Court.

Subverting the Constitution

The Supreme Court, after hearing the host of analogous petitions filed from 2021 to 2024, ultimately told the State to either comply or face the music. This appears to have infuriated both the bureaucrats and their political bosses in no uncertain terms.

With a leading 'Senior Advocate' advising them on how to subvert the Constitution and Court orders (Yes! The very same mandarins who flash the Constitution book at every available political forum!), they have taken the Ordinance route to subvert the Court orders.

When the Ordinance titled "The Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Ordinance, 2025" was forwarded to the Governor, one thought he would emulate the example set by the then Governor Kurshid Alam Khan in 1992. Alas. It was wishful thinking. All that remains is to test the wisdom of the State's decision once again by knocking the doors of the Apex Court.

Maybe there is an element of truth in what Chalavadi Narayanaswamy or the members of the Urs community say. But they are voices in the wilderness. This reminds of what the last Maharaja of Mysore, H.H. Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, said in an interview with Anees Jung which appeared in the *'Illustrated Weekly of India"*, May 20, 1973 issue:

"But I have never wanted to get into politics. It is the last refuge of the scoundrels... If I may twist that phrase of Dr. Johnson a bit. I don't entirely agree with everything that is going on. But I keep out of it. I have my reading, my studies, my writing and my interest in music and metaphysics. The princes' greatest contribution would have been to rest in whatever position they were given to work whenever the Government wanted them to and then, if the Government felt that they should go out of the picture, they should have done so gracefully."

Gracefully and tragically, he went too soon after this interview on Sept. 23, 1974 at the age of just 55 years. But the Governments that followed are anything but graceful. Do they know its meaning?

NOTE: ***On the Supreme Court directing Karnataka Government to implement its order regarding issuing TDR to legal heirs of the Mysore Maharaja:*** *The matter was adjourned by two weeks. These are oral observations and have persuasive value only. It is an extraordinary situation where the State is repeatedly disobeying the orders of the highest Court. Yet, it is seldom a Chief Secretary and senior bureaucrats are sent to jail. Everyone knows it is the CM who is calling the shots. So, the Court, in its wisdom has given some more time for compliance.*

It is disheartening as every day of hearing leaves a big hole in our pockets. People like Kapil Sibal laugh all the way to the bank at tax-payers' expense as we have a tyrannical Government. Hope recedes but yet one has to carry on with the fight !

Wishing STAR OF MYSORE a happy 48th Anniversary and all the best for the future years too...
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A Cattle ISLAND ?!

Untold story of untamed cows and bulls at Ranganathittu's Goolithittu Island No. 25

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

In the realm of wildlife, countless wonders remain shrouded in mystery, far from human understanding. Among these, the enigmatic existence of wild cattle stands out — a quiet kingdom of its own. In Srirangapatna, this rare and unique cattle community thrives, captivating those who witness it.

Globally, only a handful of places have seen wild cattle establish their dominion. One such extraordinary location is the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Mandya district's Srirangapatna taluk.

Of particular fascination is **Island No. 25** within the Sanctuary, a site that has piqued interest. Known primarily as a haven for migratory birds, the sanctuary boasts over 40 bird species in addition to scores of migratory bird species and teems with hundreds of crocodiles. Tourists often embark on boat safaris, marvelling at the birds nesting on these islands, creating memories of a lifetime.

Amidst this vibrant ecosystem lies the age-old kingdom of wild cows and bulls, a legacy believed by locals to span centuries. This unassuming island, nestled in the heart of the sanctuary, is a testament to nature's ability to preserve its wonders in harmony with time.

Goolithittu

Just beyond the usual boat safari route, along the Cauvery River, lies a remarkable sight — a vast island that captivates the imagination of visitors. This is **Goolithittu, an island where wild cattle have carved out a unique existence,** leaving the civilised world in awe.

Spanning an impressive 66.6 acres, Goolithittu is the largest island within the sanctuary. Its enigmatic charm, coupled with its role as the kingdom of wild cattle, sets it apart as one of the sanctuary's most intriguing features.

Origin of wild cattle

More than 200 years ago, the area surrounding the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary was dotted with small villages, where people lived in modest huts and houses. However, the deadly outbreaks of infectious diseases like plague and cholera struck these small villages, leading to numerous fatalities.

Wild cattle at Goolithittu Island in Srirangapatna.

The world of wild cattle: A rare legacy

This phenomenon of wild cattle is not limited to Karnataka. In Odisha's Hirakud forest area, wild cattle have thrived for the past 65 years. Their origin dates back to 1950, when the construction of a dam on the Mahanadi River submerged 141 villages in Odisha and 33 villages in Chhattisgarh.

The villagers abandoned their livestock, which adapted to the wild and gave rise to a lineage of wild cattle that persists even today. Beyond India, there is also an island in America where wild cattle have made their home, underscoring the rarity and resilience of these unique herds.

A google map image of Goolithittu Island surrounded by River Cauvery (Kaveri).

Footsteps of Mysore royalty

The areas of present Goolithittu was once a small village steeped in history. In the days before the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam, River Cauvery (Kaveri) flowed freely and unobstructed, sparing the village from harm.

Legends indicate that Mysore royal families visited this serene island to revel in its natural beauty. To accommodate their visits, a charming house was constructed, along with a tree-top watchtower that provided a panoramic view of the bird colonies and the surrounding landscapes. This tower allowed the royal visitors to experience the island's unique environment from a breathtaking vantage point, leaving behind a legacy that still lingers.

Decades ago, a devastating flood swept away much of Goolithittu Island's history. The house built for Mysore royalty, the tree-top watchtower and the villagers' huts were all lost to the rising waters. Yet, the foundation of the royal residence endures as a silent marker of the island's regal past.

Crocodile Park plan

Goolithittu was at the centre of an ambitious plan by the Forest Department around a decade ago with a proposal to establish a crocodile park on the island. The plan involved constructing a large pond and relocating some of over 200 crocodiles from river to this enclosure. However, the project never materialised, allowing Goolithittu to retain its natural environment — continuing to thrive as a unique sanctuary for wild cows and bulls.

[Continued on Page - 66]

Serpentarium

India's first-of-its-kind facility dedicated at Hunsur to study, treat and combat snakebites

By Raghu Hunsur

In a landmark initiative aimed at tackling India's persistent snakebite crisis, Liana Trust, in association with Karnataka Forest Department, has opened India's first dedicated facility for snakebite research, management and mitigation at Rathnapuri in Hunsur, Mysuru district.

This state-of-the-art **Serpentarium will house medically significant snake species, facilitating crucial research to develop effective treatments and mitigate human-snake conflicts.**

The facility will focus on key areas such as studying human-snake interactions, providing venom samples free of charge for life-saving anti-venom production and testing mitigation strategies to reduce snakebite incidents. Additionally, it will serve as a training hub for snake conservation, snake husbandry and snake research, nurturing future experts in the field.

Scientific collaboration

The Karnataka Health Department, which was the first in India to declare snakebite a notifiable disease, has played a pivotal role in ensuring accurate data collection for better public health interventions. The Karnataka Forest Department has actively supported measures to address the ecological and human impact of snakebite-related conflicts.

Scientific contributions from the Evolutionary Venomics Laboratory at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, have highlighted venom variations across India, revealing the need for region-specific anti-venoms. The Serpentarium aims to develop these specialised treatments, focusing on the unique venom profiles of Karnataka's snake populations.

Venom extraction process

Biologists Gerard Martin, Kiran Prabhu, Lisa Gonsalves and Avinash are associated with the Serpentarium. **It extracts venom only upon instructions from the Forest Department,** with the quantity averaging around five grams per month, depending on the requirements of anti-venom manufacturers.

Venom of Russell's Viper being extracted at the Serpentarium.

The **snakes are sourced from non-protected areas in Karnataka,** with approximately 80 snakes housed at the Serpentarium including Spectacled Cobra, Saw Scaled Viper, Russell's Viper, Common Krait, Hump Nosed Pit Viper, Malabar Pit Viper and King Cobra. **The Lab adheres to venom extraction standards prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).**

The **extracted venom is supplied to companies producing Karnataka-specific anti-venom, with approvals from the Forest Department.** It is also provided to research institutions such as the Evolutionary Venomics Lab at IISc.

In addition to the **'big four'— Spectacled Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper and Saw-Scaled Viper** — biologists plan to collect venom from the Malabar Pit Viper, Hump-Nosed Pit Viper and the world's largest venomous snake, the King Cobra. The **'big four' are responsible for a significant number of snakebite-related fatalities in the country.**

Community engagement

The Liana Trust, in partnership with The Humane Society International/India, has been spearheading a human-snake conflict mitigation project in Mysuru district. This includes public awareness programmes, a *WhatsApp* chatbot for snakebite education and the distribution of over a thousand snakebite mitigation kits containing gumboots, mosquito nets and torches. The initiative has also conducted studies on the psychological effects of snakebites and ecological research on Russell's Vipers in human-dominated landscapes.

Rushikesh Chavan, Head of The Habitats Trust, which has supported these efforts, emphasised the importance of scientific solutions to address what he called a "wicked problem." He remarked, **"We worship snakes, yet we kill them. Snakebites have been normalised to the point that lives lost go unnoticed. Through this partnership, we aim not just to improve anti-venom research but to find a lasting solution."**

With India accounting for the highest number of snakebite deaths globally, this pioneering facility marks a significant step towards reducing fatalities and promoting coexistence between humans and snakes.

NOTE: ***The Serpentarium is established purely for research purposes and is not open for public.***

Commendable initiative

For the past 40 years, Mysuru's noted snake rescuer and wildlife conservationist M.S. Balasubramanya, popularly known as **Snake Shyam,** has been raising awareness about snakes. Shyam, who started his journey in 1976, said it was challenging to educate people about snakes back then. Now, the Serpentarium at Hunsur has made it easier for people to understand different species of snakes.

Meanwhile, Gerard Martin, Co-founder of Liana Trust, said, to mitigate human-snake conflicts, the Forest Department, along with Liana Trust, has taken necessary measures recognising the seriousness of the issue.

A view of the Serpentarium at Rathnapuri in Hunsur, Mysuru district. Picture right shows a terrarium, where the reptiles are kept at the Serpentarium.

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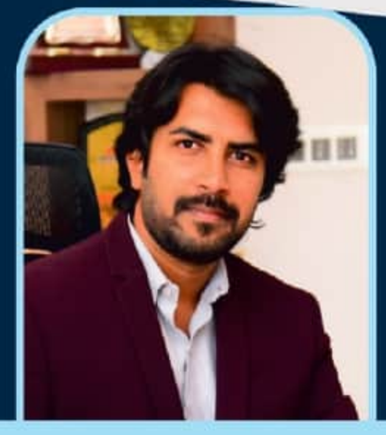

Mr. Gagandeep P S
Joint Secretary

BEST WISHES FROM: GOVERNING COUNCIL TEAM

Two stories of ...

Second Chances

From a life behind bars to a life enriched

By Ganesh Anil

Mysuru Central Jail has proven that incarceration is not just about punishment but also an opportunity for transformation. Many former inmates have turned their lives around, emerging as role models who contribute meaningfully to society.

The jail offers extensive training programmes in pottery, weaving, small-scale industries, bakery production and electrical work. Recognising the power of theatre in personal transformation, it also provides theatre training, which has helped many inmates undergo profound change and actively participate in social causes upon release.

Often, impulsive decisions and uncontrolled anger lead individuals down a path of crime, landing them behind bars. However, many inmates have embraced the training provided, acknowledged their mistakes and reformed themselves.

Upon release, they have built dignified lives, taking up self-employment as electricians, weavers and bakery entrepreneurs.

Some, inspired by their passion for theatre, have dedicated themselves to raising awareness on social issues, education and organic farming. Among them are Anburaj (a former associate of slain forest brigand Veerappan) and Baagali Mahadevaswamy (jailed for murder), who shared their journey of transformation with *Star of Mysore*. — Ed

Anburaj: From Veerappan's aide to a social crusader

Anburaj** (sitting extreme right) **with forest brigand Veerappan** (sitting centre) **and gang inside a forest hideout on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border decades ago when he was on the path of crime. Picture right shows a reformed Anburaj with his wife Revathi and two sons.

Once an associate of forest brigand Veerappan, who terrorised Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Anburaj has undergone a remarkable transformation after serving 20 years in prison. Today, he stands as a beacon of change and a role model for society.

Anburaj, seeing severe harassment and brutality by the Special Task Force (STF) on the gang members of Veerappan, joined the outlaw from 1994 to 1998. After Anburaj's arrest, he was sent to a Tamil Nadu prison and later transferred to Mysuru Central Jail.

One day, while contemplating scaling the prison walls, his gaze met that of renowned theatre artiste Hulugappa Kattimani of 'Sankalpa' troupe, who had come to conduct theatre training for jail inmates. Anburaj asked Kattimani about his identity and when the latter told him about his visit, Anburaj saw an opportunity to escape. Initially joining the theatre group with ulterior motives, he soon found himself immersed in the art, which became a turning point in his life.

Performing in various plays, he discovered a new-found passion for theatre. Having been associated with 'Sankalpa' while in prison, Anburaj has acted in over 20 plays, including some based on Shakespearean classics and scripts written by Girish Karnad.

> **"I have experienced the prison systems of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka during my 20-year sentence. Among them, Karnataka stands out for its approach to transforming prisoners through education rather than mere punishment.**
>
> **Every prison should prioritise education over retribution. True transformation happens through activities like theatre, music and crafts, which reshape a prisoner's mind. I am a living proof of this change — thanks to the education I received in Mysuru Central Prison, I have emerged as a better person and most importantly, a good father to my children."**
>
> —Anburaj

[Continued on Page - 65]

[Continued from Page - 64]

At that time, male inmates had to take on female roles too. During this phase, Mysuru-based theatre artiste Deepak Mysore of 'Sanchalana Mysuru' (theatre troupe) arranged for female inmates from Bengaluru Central Jail to act in plays. One of them was Revathi. Through their shared love for theatre, Anburaj and Revathi formed a deep bond. After being released on good conduct, they got married and now lead a happy life with their two children.

After his release, Anburaj started an oil press business in Erode, Tamil Nadu. His interactions with farmers led him to advocate for organic farming, opening an organic products store to promote sustainable agriculture. He takes no profit from this venture, seeing it as a means to spread awareness about healthier farming practices.

Despite having only a 6th grade education, Anburaj continued his studies in jail and earned a BA degree. Deeply inspired by the works of Kuvempu, Poornachandra Tejaswi, Dr. R. Ananthamurthy and Dr. J. Chenni Kumaran, he realised the power of education and founded the Tribal Foundation to support the education of tribal children and school drop-outs. His Foundation has helped 83 students complete their degrees.

FROM THE ALBUM: ***Photo of Anburaj's wedding with Revathi. Picture right shows Anburaj*** *(seated in the front)* ***enacting his role in a play, the skill he learnt at the Mysuru Central Prison.***

Baagali Mahadevaswamy: A voice that found freedom

Mahadevaswamy was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of one of his relatives during a family dispute. While serving his sentence, his melodious voice caught the attention of theatre artiste Hulugappa Kattimani, who encouraged him to explore theatre and folklore.

As he acted in plays, his talent stood out. In 2013, during a visit to Mysuru Central Jail, Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar was captivated by Mahadevaswamy's soulful singing. Upon inquiry, Dr. Parameshwar received positive feedback from the jail authorities, leading him to recommend Mahadevaswamy's release on good conduct. On Republic Day 2016, Mahadevaswamy walked free, ready to start a new chapter in his life.

Post-release, he joined a theatre group and dedicated himself to street plays, raising awareness about Government schemes, education and superstitions. His singing talent earned him a place on a TV reality show 'Kannada Kogile,' where he impressed both judges and audiences.

Despite financial struggles, Mahadevaswamy refused to seek help, earning a living through masonry while continuing to perform. Recognising his perseverance, H.R. Ranganath, the head of *Public TV,* gifted him an autorickshaw to help him sustain.

Today, Mahadevaswamy makes a living as an autorickshaw driver while actively participating in singing programmes and street plays, using his talent to uplift society.

> **"Society must embrace those who have made mistakes and served their time. Having repented and gained education while in prison, they emerge with a renewed purpose. However, re-integration is not without challenges and they must confront and overcome the obstacles that lie ahead."**
>
> —Mahadevaswamy

Baagali Mahadevaswamy *(extreme right)* ***playing a hand drum during a cultural programme organised by Rangayana, Mysuru.***

The remarkable journeys of Anburaj and Mahadevaswamy underscore the transformative power of rehabilitation. Mysuru Central Jail has not just confined criminals; it has reformed lives, proving that with the right guidance, even those who once walked a dark path can become beacons of hope and change.

P.S. Ramesh, Chief Jail Superintendent

Prison-made products worth Rs. 2.38 lakh sold at Dasara Exhibition

The Mysuru Central Prison offers professional education programmes to inmates, equipping them with vocational skills. Through handloom and electric handloom training, inmates manufacture durries, khadi cloth, towels, lungis, bedsheets and white uniforms for fellow prisoners. The bakery division produces a variety of baked items.

In wood-working, inmates craft furniture such as dewan cots, study tables, teapoys, sofa sets, dining tables and chairs. **"These factory divisions collectively generate an annual revenue of Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh," said P.S. Ramesh, Chief Superintendent, Mysuru Central Prison.**

At this year's Dasara Exhibition, products made in prison, including khadi cloth, towels, lungis, bedsheets, study tables, teapoys, sofa sets, dining tables and chairs, were sold for Rs. 2,38,571. Similarly, at the 87th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in Mandya, these products generated sales worth Rs. 53,476.

Education is a key focus within the prison. A total of 22 inmates have completed their BA, 10 have obtained their MA, two have pursued postgraduate degrees and eight have earned diploma certificates. Additionally, through the adult education programme, 456 illiterate inmates have attained literacy. This literacy initiative continues to be actively implemented, he added.

A Cattle Island ?!

[Continued from Page - 61]

these wild cattle to the blessings of Lord Ranganathaswamy, the presiding deity of Srirangapatna. They also claim that every attempt to capture or relocate these animals has met with failure, reinforcing the mysterious and enduring legacy of Goolithittu Island's wild cattle▪

From 100s to 21: The decline

Goolithittu, once a thriving haven for over a hundred wild cattle, now faces a sharp decline in population. These animals, which established their unique kingdom over centuries without human interference, have dwindled to just 21.

The primary threat is leopards that prey on their calves, steadily reducing their numbers. Immediate measures are essential to safeguard the progeny of Goolithittu's wild cattle.

Research into the lifestyle and characteristics of this pure native breed is crucial to ensure their survival.

As Goolithittu lies within a protected forest area with restricted public entry, the absence of human activity has allowed these animals to live freely. However, this very isolation makes them vulnerable to natural predators, underscoring the urgent need for conservation efforts to preserve this unique legacy.

Shy yet strong

The wild cattle and calves of Goolithittu have thrived without human intervention, forming their own unique lineage and way of life. These majestic creatures, known for their towering stature and robust build, are as beautiful as they are elusive.

Shy by nature, they flee at the slightest glimpse of humans. Without the restraints of ropes or nose rings, their wild spirit shines through as they glare at onlookers, giving the impression of an impending attack. But they vanish with remarkable speed.

About 10-15 years ago, efforts were made to relocate the wild cattle to a safer environment. The plan involved fencing and placing stone pillars around a designated area to capture them. However, these resilient animals shattered the stone pillars with their power, making the relocation attempt futile.

Locals attribute the survival of

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Chinmayi Sripad Hegde
Darshan Subray Bhat
Harshitha D.M
Sriram K.M
D.S.Dhanvi
Janhavi S
Rakshitha
Nandini C
Sonu Seervi
Tanu Gupta
Congratulations to our beloved students. We thank our teaching, non-teaching staff and the parents who guided and supported us for the success of our students.
PRESIDENT SURARAM
SECRETARY M.R.CHOUDHARY
TREASURER RATHAN LAL KAG
HEAD MISTRESS PAVITHRA H.P
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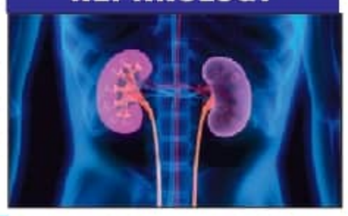

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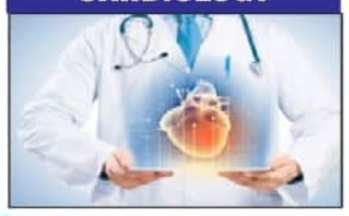

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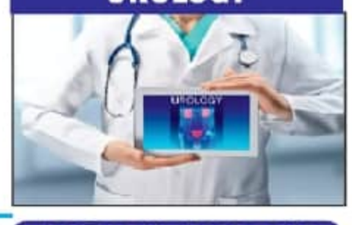

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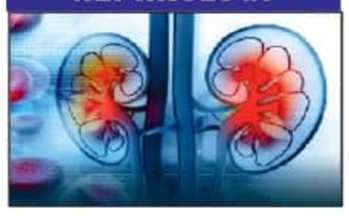

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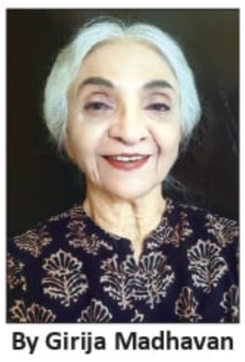


By Girija Madhavan

MYSORE MEMORIES...

A Lost World

A recent video on my WhatsApp sent my mind scrambling down the staircase of memory. It showed a picture of the Yadavagiri residential area of Mysore, when it was still designated as an 'Extension'; a word that was compulsory on postal addresses in the late 1940s.

The video also mentioned that there were only five roads in the area… and a few houses too.

My father's retirement home in Yadavagiri was built by the architect Rama Rao and we moved into it in 1948. It was a bold style of architecture then, square with broad chajjhas [overhangs] and wide windows.

On the brow of the hill stood a two-storey house belonging to the Brahmappa-Thavanappa business family of Mysore, also built by Rama Rao. Like my childhood home, it no longer exists but a similar bungalow still stands on Vivekananda Road.

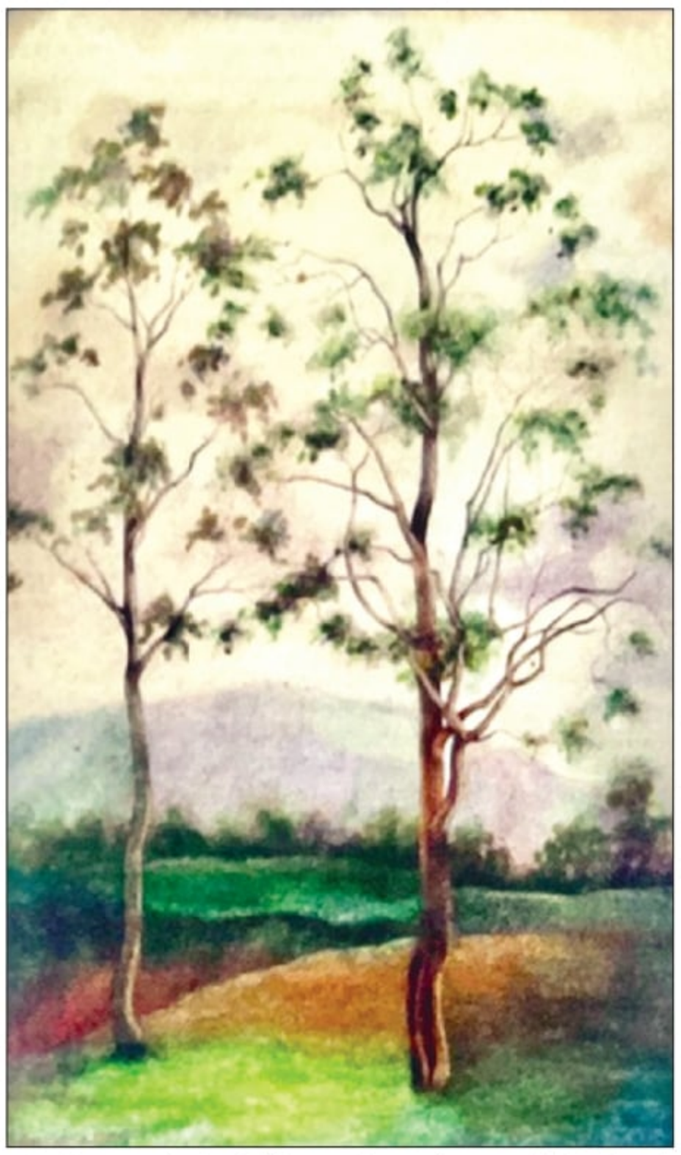
The landscape then was very different from its crowded appearance now. I have no photographs, only two or three paintings by my mother to describe those times. Her painting of Vivekananda Road and Cheluvamba Park shows the arch with a flowering creeper at the entrance, the wide sweep of the Park itself and even a glimpse of the DC's office, 'Jaladarshini' in the far distance.

Sadly that picture was stolen from me and this photo alone remains. The picture of the gulmohar lined avenue being swept by two women workers of the Corporation is of a later date, maybe 1952.

To the right of my parental home was a charming house with red pillars on a wide veranda [kempu khambada mane]. A spreading gulmohar tree picked up the red accents when in bloom. A more conventional residence stood to the left. I was homeschooled after a severe illness and was a lonely ten year old, very curious about the world at large and neighbours in particular.

An American family moved into the house on our left. Mr. Shepherd and Mrs. Wilma Shepherd were Seventh Day Adventist Missionaries. Two little blonde daughters, Kathleen and Cecelia and a dachshund dog named Tippu completed the family. Mr. Shepherd called on us; a tall, big built man with a rounded face, brown hair and rimless glasses.

Kathleen and Cecelia were allowed to visit us for a short time once in a way to watch my infant nephew being hand fed Ragi Ganji. "Oh! Show us how you pour it down his throat."



Cork trees in the Railway Bungalow on KRS Road by Mukta. One is still there !

Vivekananda Road in Yadavagiri in 1950s.

Their father, a strict parent, sometimes used a light cane to enforce discipline. Poor Tippu was also not spared on occasion. Wilma followed her American routines. Cleaning Day [with mops and dusters], Washing Day [pegging the laundry on lines in the backyard]. She worked hard till the Sabbath. She would sometimes drop in to meet Mukta.

During Vinayaka Chaturthi she saw Mukta's artistic rangoli, the banana fronds and mango leaf garlands at the front entrance. She asked Mukta, "You are so educated, why do you follow these old practices?" Mukta replied "Oh! Don't you decorate fir trees and hang up mistletoe at Christmas"?

After they left, other foreign neighbours moved into Yadavagiri. A young French family rented the red pillared house. Christian Revel, a timber businessman, his wife Simone and two small sons, named Ananda and Arjuna, came to live in Mysore.

They also had connections to Pondicherry and Tellicherry where their main timber business was located. Christian spoke fluent English, but not Simone or the children. Broken English, smiles and gestures made for sweet communication.

Christian, a Theosophist, soon began to hold informal weekly gatherings of local people at home to discuss Theosophy. He would sit cross legged on the carpeted floor, the others grouped around him. What began as just a few people became a larger group.

An interest in the French language also drew people to the Revels. Sri K. Iyengar was a revered scholar in Mysore. A tall man, he was stately in his crisp Panchkachcham, closed collar coat, Mysore Peta, a perfectly etched red Namam accentuating his aquiline features.

A sharp intellect, he had studied French grammar deeply on his own and could read fluently. However, his ardent wish was to actually converse in the language. So he came and met the Revels. Sadly, their colloquial French was as unintelligible to him as his formal speech and accent was to them.

Simone came to say goodbye and left with the children, our first inkling that perhaps all was not well in the timber business. Christian's visits also ceased after a while. Our friendly neighbours relocated. But left behind happy memories of another culture and people ▪

Trains flagged off from Ashokapuram

[Continued from Page - 9]

The MEMU train pairs Minister Somanna flagged off are Train No. 06525/26 and 66551/52, extending their route from Mysuru Station to Ashokapuram. This move strengthens connectivity between Ashokapuram, Mysuru and Bengaluru, marking a significant step in improving regional rail transport.

Speaking on the occasion, Somanna lauded former Mysuru-Kodagu MP Prathap Simha for undertaking the development of Ashokapuram Yard with a cost of Rs. 45 crore. He said that the 2025-2026 Railway Budget has allocated Rs. 2,65,000 crore and all departments have been given allocations and importance.

"Till 2014, each State would get an annual Railway allocation of Rs. 823 crore while the Narendra Modi Government has been allocating Rs. 7,564 crore per State since 2014. In Karnataka now, work is under progress in Railway projects worth Rs. 37,000 crore," he said.

The introduction of MEMU trains provides more convenient travel options. Railway officials stated that the Ashokapuram Station will ensure a seamless experience for both daily commuters and long-distance travellers.

Additional train operations from Ashokapuram will further ease congestion at Mysuru City Railway Station. This will particularly benefit Mysuru South localities such as J.P. Nagar, Vidyaranyapuram and surrounding areas of the Krishnaraja Assembly Constituency.

Rs. 45 crore revamp

The extensive upgrade of Ashokapuram Railway Station was executed at a cost of Rs. 45 crore. Situated 5.2 km from Mysuru City Junction on the Mysuru-Chamarajanagar section, the Station has undergone major infrastructural enhancements aimed at decongesting Mysuru City Junction by redistributing passenger and rail traffic.

Developed as an alternative terminal to Mysuru City Railway Station, Ashokapuram now boasts six platforms and two stabling lines.

Key upgrades

New Station building and booking office: A second entry on Pampapathi Road.

Extended Foot Overbridge (FOB): Connecting all platforms for easier movement.

Coach watering facilities: Installed on railroads 4, 5, 6 and 7 to support increased train operations.

Expanded parking: Catering to two-wheelers and four-wheelers at the second entry.

Coach guidance boards: To be installed on all six platforms at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

With these enhancements, Ashokapuram serves as Mysuru's second terminal, boosting efficiency across 11 platforms and facilitating new train services. The Station's second entry improves accessibility, accommodating the city's expanding urban landscape.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, MLA T.S. Srivatsa, MLCs K. Vivekananda & C.N. Manjegowda and SWR Mysuru DRM Shilpi Agarwal were present.

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ಕಳೆದ

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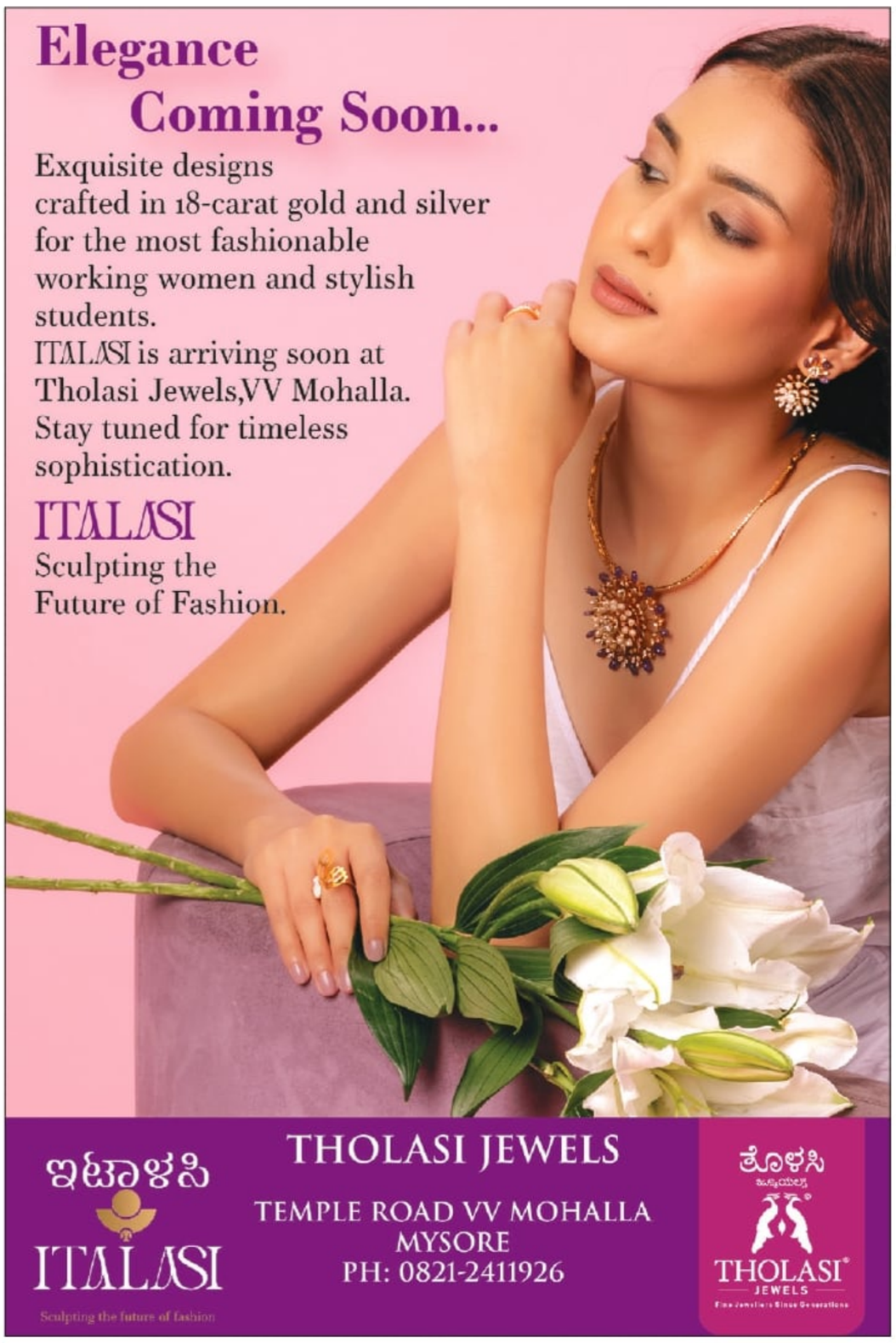
ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹೆಸರುವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಡಾ|| ಕೆ.ಬಿ. ಗಣಪತಿ ಅವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ "ಸ್ಟಾರ್ ಆಫ್ ಮೈಸೂರ್" ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬಕ್ಕೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಹೃದಯಪೂರ್ವಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು. ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಎತ್ತರೆತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಲಿ ಎಂಬುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸದಾಶಯ.

ಈ ಶುಭ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಗಳು

— ಜಿ.ಟಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡರ ಕುಟುಂಬವರ್ಗ

Celebrity Wedding...

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seen greeting Kannada film actor 'Daali' Dhananjaya (son of Adaviswamy and Savithramma) and Dr. Dhanyatha (a Gynaecologist hailing from Chitradurga) at their grand wedding reception held at the sprawling Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Mysuru city last evening. Also, many celebrities and politicians attended the ceremony.



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and an insatiable thirst for knowledge."

- Jeffrey Archer, The Fourth Estate

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